

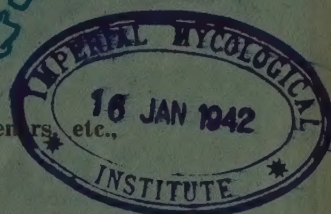
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Vol. XLII.

No. 11

NOVEMBER 5th, 1941

Price 6d.

Special Articles This Month

Apricot Manurial Trial
Citrus Field Day
Goulburn Valley (Victoria)
Celery Culture
Canning & Dried Fruits
Young Farmers Activities
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas

Tasmanian News & Notes
Items from New Zealand
Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W.
Orchard Notes for November
South Australia
Sulphuring of Apricots
Western Australia

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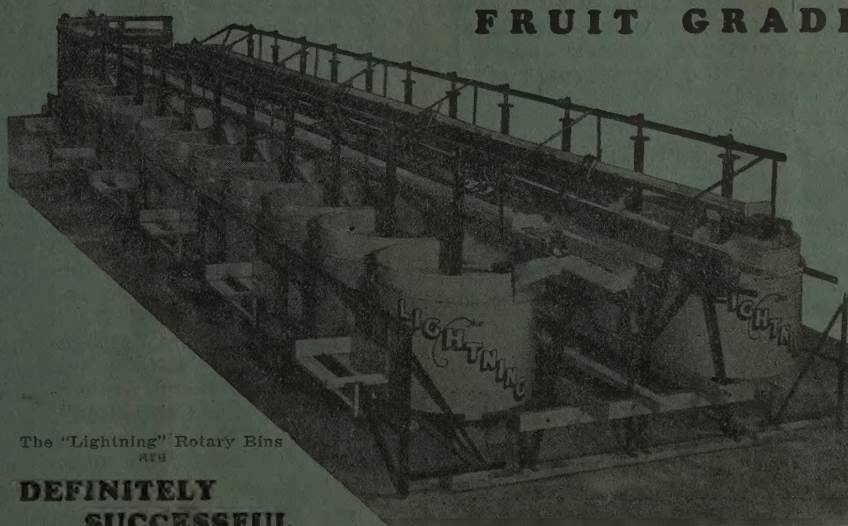
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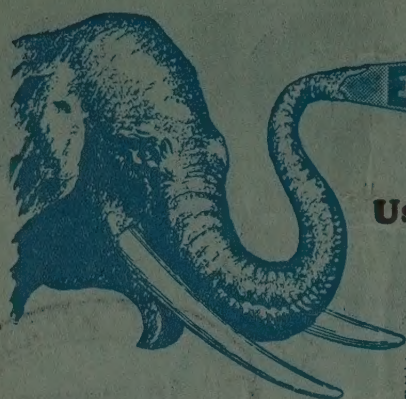
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Extract from "BETTER FRUIT," by Dr. R. L. Webster, Entomologist, State College of Washington, Pullman: **CODLING MOTH COVER SPRAYS**—"Ever since the imposition of an arsenic tolerance in 1926, and even before that time, investigators have been testing other materials which may be used in place of lead arsenate. Following all these intensive and extensive investigations lead arsenate appears to have certain inherent qualities which place this material foremost as an insecticide for codling moth control."

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FRUIT GROWERS generally have come to depend on "Elephant" Brand Sprays. They find them absolutely reliable, efficient and of guaranteed quality.

Queensland News

FRUIT SPRAYING.

Increased Fuel Allowance.

Arrangements have been made with the State Liquid Fuel Board to supply fruit growers with petrol to enable them to spray crops systematically. This was advised by the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Bulcock) recently.

Mr. Bulcock said that complaints had been received from Stanthorpe growers that rationing restrictions had prevented them from spraying orchards in accordance with departmental recommendations. Representations had been made to the Fuel Board, and it had accepted a prepared basis for calculating allowances for yearly spraying of various crops.

The scheme (according to the "Queensland Producer") allows for nine yearly sprayings for Apples and Pears, two, or three for stone fruits, and five for Grape vines. One gallon of petrol would spray five acres of average-size trees and two or three acres of larger trees. One gallon would be needed for two to three acres of Grape vines.

FRUIT MARKETING AGREEMENT.

Sale of Tomatoes and Cucumbers.

A comprehensive agreement has been signed by the C.O.D. and the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries for the sale of Tomatoes and Cucumbers from recognised Tomato growing districts south of the Brisbane River, including particularly Redland Bay, Victoria Point, Cleveland, Mt. Cotton, Ormiston, Wellington Point, Birkdale, Manly, Wynnum and Islands adjacent to these districts by fruit trains run by the C.O.D.

PAPAWS AND BANANAS.

Publicity Drive.

The C.O.D. reports as follows on the intensive advertising campaigns to increase the demand for Papaws and Bananas.

Papaws. All advertising in the present campaign is concentrated on the widest possible distribution of the booklet "Papaws and their Uses," and this campaign is being followed up by radio and theatre advertising in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Bananas. A campaign extending over one month and built around a widely advertised Banana Recipe Competition has just ended.

The drive commenced on September 22, and some estimate of its effectiveness can be gained by the fact that entries for the competition exceeded 155 per day. Very much improved sales were reported by the merchants, for which the Banana advertising scheme must be given the greater part of the credit.

GRAPEFRUIT GROWING.

Improved Cultivation.

Experiments by the University of Arizona have shown that the palatability and juice content of Grapefruit can be improved by—

- the application of nitrogen during Winter or early Spring;
- the use of a cover crop to limit the increase of soil nitrates during Summer; and
- by the judicious restriction of irrigation.

The use of central stationary spray plants is extending in Victoria. In Tasmania, too, this system has proved efficient and economical.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Apple Publicity Committee Active.

The W.A. Committee of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board co-operated with the Health Authorities during the recent Health Week held in W.A.

Attractions arranged included physical culture demonstrations, a decorated Apple Juice Float with amplifying equipment, a Raw Apple Dish Contest run through the "Daily News," and a Health Hike. Several broadcasts were given, the speakers being Dr. Atkinson (Commissioner of Public Health), "Why an Apple a Day?" Major Somerville (State Secretary of the Men's and Boys' Salvation Army Institutions), "Healthy Young Minds and Bodies"; Miss B. Lynch (Leader and Chief of the Women's League of Health), Dr. W. W. Seed (Medical Superintendent of the Perth Children's Hospital), "Children's Diseases—Their Causes and Cures" and "Enteritis—Its Causes and Cures"; Mr. R. M. Carter (State Superintendent, Apple and Pear Marketing Board), "Australia's Health and Wealth"; Miss E. J. Doherty (Highgate State School), "The Problem of Malnutrition Among School Children" and "Fitness for Children"; Mr. A. G. McKenna (Chief Dental Inspector of Public Health Dept.), "Mouth Hygiene"; Mr. R. M. Neal, Publicity Officer (W.A. Apple and Pear Committee), "Health and How to Retain it" and "Australia's Health and Wealth"; Bro. Allen (Clontarf Boys' Orphanage), "The Rising Generation"; Mrs. Dean (President of the Women's Citizens' Reception Council).

Three speakers, Mrs. Dean, Bro. Allen and Major Somerville, particularly thanked the Board for its generous donations of Apples throughout the season.

Health Week was officially opened by His Excellency, the Governor, Sir James Mitchell, supported by the Lord Mayor of

Perth, Dr. Meagher, and Mr. A. H. Panton, M.L.A., Minister for Public Health.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Sour Sob.

In answer to a query from a Western District (Vic.) reader, the following particulars are supplied by Mr. F. R. Drake, Assistant Agrostologist, Vic. Dept. of Agriculture.

"The weed specimen forwarded is identified as Sour Sob—*Oxalis cernua*."

"This plant, in spite of the apparent delicacy of its above-ground parts, is extremely difficult to eradicate, as it produces underground bulbs and bulbils, by means of which it reproduces and spreads."

"There is a stage in its life history when the old bulbs are largely exhausted and before the new bulbils are formed, when it is most susceptible to treatment. This stage is reached, however, comparatively early in the season—June or July. Top growth can be easily destroyed by spraying with a dilute weed killing solution—sodium chlorate 2½ per cent. or arsenic pentoxide, one in 80, and several such sprayings throughout a season, applied whenever new growth appears should eradicate the weed."

"It should of course be realised that such a spray would damage any plants with which it came in contact, but at the dilute strengths suggested, residual effect on the soil would be negligible."

NEW DRUG FROM FRUIT.

Dr. G. W. Carver, the famous Negro scientist of the Tuskegee Institute, is still active despite his great age and has evolved from Persimmon a new drug to treat pyorrhea.

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Apple and Pear Enquiry

CONTINUANCE OF ACQUISITION RECOMMENDED.

"No Suitable Alternative Scheme Submitted."

THE Minister for Commerce, Mr. Scully, tabled the final report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee which investigated the operations of the Apple and Pear Acquisition Scheme in Parliament on Wednesday, November 5.

The Chairman of the Committee was Mr. J. A. Perkins, and the members Senator Fraser, Minister for External Territories, Mr. Frost, Minister for Repatriation, Senator James McLachlan, Sir George Bell, Messrs. Pollard and Alex. Wilson.

The Committee visited all the States during the course of its inquiries, and took evidence from 349 witnesses. After full consideration of the evidence submitted, the Committee is of the opinion that an acquisition scheme should remain in operation for the duration of the war. No alternative scheme submitted by witnesses commended itself to the Committee.

The Committee considers that the present Apple and Pear Marketing Board of eight members is too large, and suggests that more economical management would be achieved by a Board of three members with executive powers, comprising a Chairman and General Manager, a member with marketing and distribution experience, and a commercial grower.

This Board should be assisted by an Advisory Council consisting of six members, one from each State. The Committee recommends the appointment of a Committee in each State comprising three representatives elected by registered growers and three nominated members to represent respectively the State Government and the interests of agents and consumers.

The Committee did not recommend any change in the differential unit system in operation for the 1941 season for the payment of advances to growers which provides for varying rates of advances as between States and as between varieties of Apples and Pears produced in each State.

It is, however, considered that a revision of the grouping of the varieties for the purpose of advances is desirable and that more regard should be given to relative pre-war selling values.

With regard to prices, the Committee found that in the flush of the season wholesale prices were comparatively low, but this was not generally reflected in lower retail prices at this period. Later in the season, however, comparatively higher wholesale prices resulted in increased retail prices. In this connection it is recommended that the Board should have power to restrain retailers from

demanding prices disadvantageous to the public, detrimental to maximum consumption, and out of proportion to the wholesale price.

The complete recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee are:-

1. That an Apple and Pear Acquisition Scheme should remain in operation for the duration of the war and the continuance of the National Security Act.

2. That the control of the Acquisition Scheme should be vested in a Board with executive powers, such Board to consist of three members—

(a) a Chairman and General Manager who should be experienced in administration and organisation; should have an expert knowledge of the fruit industry and who is not engaged in or connected with private trading of fruit and who, in addition, has no financial interest in any branch of the industry.

(b) a man who possesses an extensive knowledge of marketing and distribution.

(c) a commercial grower.

Associated with this Board there should be an Advisory Council consisting of six members—one from each of the State Committees, and nominated by such Committee.

3. That a State Committee consisting of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman, and four members, should be appointed annually in each State, the constitution of such State Committee to be as follows:—

(a) Three representatives elected by registered growers.

(b) An agent nominated by the Agents' Association, or in the absence of an Agent's Association, to be appointed by the Minister.

(c) An officer of the Department of Agriculture to be nominated by the State Government.

(d) An additional member nominated by the State Government to represent consumers.

4. That the Auditor-General should be asked to conduct a full inquiry into the financial arrangements and accounts of the officers of the Board and the Committees in the various States.

5. That Board selling floor space should be established in all the capital cities and the larger centres of the Commonwealth.

6. That in regard to tree-measured fruit a progress payment of 50 per cent. should be paid immediately following the second measurement and subsequent payments should be made without undue delay. All fruit

should be subject to a deduction of 2d. per case where the Board instructs that tree-measured fruit should not be taken.

7. That depots at heavy traffic outlets in the capital cities and country towns and kiosks on roadsides should be established for the better distribution of fruit. Hawkers should be encouraged to ply the trade in country districts.

8. That the Commonwealth and State Railways Departments should be asked to carry consignments of fruit at cheap rates.

9. That during the intake period a free distribution of Apples should be made in the schools, both State and Registered, and also to charitable institutions.

10. That the group system of grading Apples should be revised and the varieties of Apples now in Groups 1, 2 and 3 should be included in Groups 1 and 2. That Group 3 be abolished and the Apples now known as unlisted and unwanted be also regrouped into Groups 1 and 2.

11. That Pears should also be regrouped.

12. That an immediate survey of the list of all varieties of Apples be made for the purpose of revision and consequent alterations in the list of Apples to be marketed, and that more consideration should be given to the relative selling values before the war.

13. That the rates paid to the cool stores by the growers should be the subject of close scrutiny by the Apple and Pear Marketing Board.

14. That more care should be taken to ensure that only fruit that will bear transportation to distant centres should be selected for other than local trade.

15. That there should be a standard case for packing Apples in Australia, and the rising cost in the prices of cases should be controlled; that the Apple and Pear Marketing Board should accept responsibility for the supply of all cases in view of the fact that the orchardist does not know what portion of his crop will be delivered and therefore is not in a position to make his own purchase, and that the Board should call public tenders for the supply of cases but

reserving for itself the right to make private treaty contracts; that the Board should also take control of all cases so that second-hand cases can be used for fruit only to the fullest advantage where desirable; that the prices charged for packing materials such as cardboard, wrapping paper, etc., should be scrutinised and carefully controlled.

16. That consideration should be given to the wide difference in payments between the packing sheds in each State, and that savings should be effected.

17. That the Board should have power to restrain retailers from demanding prices disadvantageous to the public, detrimental to a maximum consumption, and out of proportion to the wholesale price.

18. That daily wholesale prices should be given ample publicity by the Board.

19. That the practice of restricting crops by pruning, cutting away fruit, and deblossoming by spraying should be avoided.

20. That the system of repurchase of fruit by growers should be con-

tinued where the disposal of such fruit would not come into serious conflict with the working of the scheme.

21. That after fruit has passed inspection the responsibility for deterioration should rest with the Apple and Pear Board.

22. That there should be a **Hail Insurance Scheme** to be financed by a percentage levy being made by the Board on the assessed value of the crop in each State for the purpose of compensating growers for loss sustained by hail damage.

23. That the practice of branding cases with the names of growers be extended to all Apple and Pear growing districts.

24. That consideration should be given to the question of releasing men from military service for work on the orchards during the harvest and spraying season.

25. That simpler and more efficient methods of advertising should be adopted, and advertisements should not go beyond advising the public where and how fruit may be obtained.

26. That improvements in selling organisations extending to the remotest districts of the Commonwealth should be made in order to reduce the large surplus at present inevitable owing to the export markets being shut out.

27. That the Government should not only urge but encourage and assist by every practicable means the extension of the manufacture of by-products of Apples in the Commonwealth; and if such encouragement is given processing should be carried out in the districts where the fruit is grown.

28. That further regulations should be framed from time to time to meet the exigencies of the situation as they may arise.

The report will be considered by the Federal Cabinet at an early date.

PERSONAL.

Owing to health reasons, Mr. T. H. Peart, factory manager and superintendent of Shepparton Preserving Co., has retired after 24 years of valuable service, not only to his company, but to the fruit industry generally. His resignation was accepted with great regret at a meeting of the directors of S.P.C., when Mr. M. C. Landy was appointed his successor. Mr. Peart's direct association with the cannery dates as far back as 1917, when he assisted in the installation of the original machinery. He took over the management from Mr. W. Gant in 1921, and was intimately associated with the spectacular and soundly progressive advancement of the S.P.C., whose products now enjoy a world-wide renown. Mr. Peart's outstanding efficiency is recognised throughout the canned fruit industry.

Mr. J. Holmes, a well-known Sydney fruit merchant, and chairman of the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Publicity Committee, is back at work following his recent absence through illness.

Mr. P. S. Macdermott, Secretary of the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries and Hon. Secretary of the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Publicity Committee, was another casualty recently. He has now fully recovered. He went to Queensland at the end of October.

As Spraying is a Necessity —then use the World's Best—

NEPTUNE SPRAYS...

The better quality of **NEPTUNE Sprays** is always obvious by comparison with others. **NEPTUNE Sprays** conform to the highest standards, and they are consistently uniform in strength and quality. Successful Orchardists recommend them. Try them yourself and prove that they're better!

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NEPTUNE SPRAY
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NEPTUNE OIL CO. PTY. LTD.

(Incorporated in N.S.W.) ALL STATES.

Victorian News and Notes

Orchard Notes for November

By J. L. Provan, B.Agr.Sc.,
Senior Horticultural Instructor, Vic. Dept. of Agric.

AT THIS TIME of the year, growers in many districts are turning their attention to the irrigation of their orchards. It is desirable that orchards should be watered as uniformly as possible both as regards lateral spread and downward penetration. This uniformity can be achieved only by the adoption of practices which take into account the physical nature of the soil, and particularly its variability in profile.

To obtain uniform watering, many growers are adopting multiple-furrow systems and are achieving very good results. Uniform downward penetration is more difficult to achieve in many soils. There is always a tendency for "headlands" and "footlands" to be overwatered. To some extent variable penetration can be overcome by reducing the length of the irrigation run, increasing or decreasing the number of lands irrigated simultaneously, and modifying the head of water used.

The soil auger should be used after the irrigation on all soils where difficulty is experienced in obtaining a uniform wetting. A three or four inch post-hole borer can be used quite successfully in examining water penetration down to a depth of three or four feet. If the holes are protected on the surface, they can be used subsequently for the examination of the height of the water table in orchards where this condition has given trouble in the past.

This season, codling moth may cause growers more trouble than in the past, because of the build up in population in many orchards last season. A more general adoption of supplementary measures for the control of this pest is urged this season, and growers should endeavor to reduce the cost of spray applica-

tions by giving more attention to orchard hygiene.

In the Goulburn Valley, each year large numbers of Pear trees are banded with hessian bands, and in the Apple districts many growers are adopting the chemical bands where codling moth has been difficult to control by spray applications alone. Banding can be effective, however, only where all other forms of cover for the codling moth larvae have been removed. The scraping of loose bark from the trees, the removal of debris from the fork and around the base of the tree, the cleaning of props and the filling up of cracks and crevices are all factors which materially assist in control. Bands should be placed in position about the middle of November.

Canning Peaches should be sprayed towards the end of November with a dry-mix lime sulphur spray, for the control of brown rot. The ingredients of the spray are 16 lb. of sulphur, 8 lbs. of freshly slaked lime, and 1 lb. of casein spreader, to be mixed while dry and used at the rate of 25 lb. per 100 gallons. In applying the spray, growers should be certain that agitation in the spray vat is efficient, otherwise quite an appreciable amount of the ingredients will be left in the bottom of the vat. For dessert Peaches, a wettable sulphur used at the rate of 4 lb. per 100 gallons can be applied at the end of this month.

For some years past, Red Spider has been troublesome, and growers are urged to watch for the appearance of this pest and to apply early control measures before it becomes serious in the orchard. The addition of one gallon of white oil emulsion to the arsenate of lead spray (80 gallons) will assist in the control, but, if the pest becomes

CROP PROSPECTS

Quantong (18/10/41): Mr. S. Jost, Quantong Fruitgrowers, advises as follows:—

Tomatoes and Small Crops: Season appears to be later, due to cooler Spring than usual, and ground is still cold and moist.

Apricots: Early varieties (including Moorpark), medium to light. Some of the later varieties are good. Trevatts appear to have excellent setting.

Pears: W.B.C.'s flowering heavily. Josephine and Keiffers medium crops. Packhams heavy.

Quinces: Do not appear to vary to any great extent. About the usual crop.

Peaches: Early varieties, medium to light. Mid-season and late varieties, fair to heavy.

Plums and Prunes: Both very heavy flowering.

Apples: Rather patchy, but blossomed better than expected after heavy crops last season. Red Apples and Granny Smiths—fair crops.

Labor Shortage: A big item at Quantong this season, unless the Government establishes one large labor bureau where primary producers can procure assistance. Growers are feeling the strain even now, but many are not bothering to plant small lines heavily—with the exception of Tomatoes—as they feel they will have their hands full harvesting fruit.

Harcourt: Mr. J. H. Lang advised on 20/10/41 as under:—

Apples: Owing to the large crop last year there is naturally a reaction, and the crop this year will be light.

Jonathan give indications of a 70 per cent. crop, but other varieties are much lower. Dunns 20 per cent., Romes 50 per cent., Cleopatra 50 per cent.

serious, it would be advisable to add a pint of nicotine sulphate. Direct the spray particularly to the underside of the leaves in order to obtain the maximum effect from it.

For the Apple crop as a whole about 30 per cent.

Pears: The prospects for Pears are much better with possibly a 70 per cent. crop. Bosc are light, but other varieties are setting well, though Winter Nelis is patchy.

Plums have set well and give indications of a good crop, and the same applies to **Cherries**.

With improved supplies of water in the Coliban system, a reasonable amount of water should be available for irrigation, although the Harcourt reservoir is at a record low level for this time of the year.

HASTINGS CROP PROSPECTS

Stone Fruits, Apples and Pears.

Mr. G. H. Sprague, of Hastings, wrote on 24/10/41 as follows:—

Stone Fruits: In spite of a heavy blossoming, reports to hand indicate only moderate setting.

Pears also flowered freely but showing a very considerable first shedding after petal fall.

Apples are showing well for a crop, but as the petals are just beginning to fall, it is too early to say that the setting will be heavy. The cold weather at present will have an influence on the result.

Most growers employing labor report extreme difficulty in keeping up with seasonal work, and in this respect they are not looking forward with any confidence that the position will be any easier as the harvesting time approaches. This is one among a number of reasons why an early announcement regarding next season's crop would be welcomed.

"My wife explored my pockets last night."

"What did she find?"

"What explorers usually find—enough material for a lecture."

Blyth's "BLUE BELL" Quality Sprays

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For Over Twenty-five Years "BLUE BELL" Arsenate of Lead has Proved a Faithful Friend to Growers.

Extract from "Better Fruit" (U.S.A.), Spraying and Pest Control Edition.

CODLIN MOTH CONTROL

By Arthur D. Borden, University of California.

"LEAD ARSENATE is our standard spray material to-day. None of the many substitutes which have been tested have proved to be as toxic and effective in control."

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Horticultural Conditions In Victoria

HORTICULTURAL conditions in Victoria during October are reviewed in a report from the Department of Agriculture thus:—

Most varieties of Apples blossomed freely and appear to be setting well. Pears are more variable. Packham's in the Doncaster district, Winter Nelis at Harcourt, and W.B.C. in the Goulburn Valley have set only light crops. Canning Peaches in the Goulburn Valley are showing excellent crops and the prospects for the other stone fruits appear to be satisfactory.

As a result of showery weather at spraying time, some Black Spot is visible on Apples and Pears. Where any infection is noticed, growers should not neglect cover sprays of either Bordeaux mixture or lime-

sulphur. In comparison with last year, the emergence of Codling Moth has been much later this season. The calyx spray of lead arsenate was applied to all Pear varieties and mid-season Apple varieties.

All varieties of berry fruit are expected to produce good crops. In the Silvan district, Strawberries will be a fortnight later in ripening than last year, and, because of the labor shortage, some difficulty is expected in harvesting the crop.

Vines.

A good average crop of Sultanas is anticipated. The completion of the drainage scheme in the Mildura district has improved the growth of the vines, and it is expected that an even higher district tonnage

than usual will be obtained. In the Nyah and Woorinen districts, the severe hailstorm which occurred early in the month is expected to reduce the crop.

Growers have been spraying for Black Spot on vines, and, because of the suitable weather for its development, protective measures should not be relaxed.

Citrus.

Valencia Oranges are being harvested. The crop is light, and, because of rind marks and blemishes, the external appearance is not as good as usual. There are excellent crops of Grapefruit. Large crops of Lemons and low prices have resulted in less picking, and considerable quantities of fruit are being left on the trees.

All varieties of citrus are showing an exceptionally heavy blossoming and a record crop is expected next season.

Victorian Apple and Pear Growers

Continuance of Acquisition Requested.

EMPHATIC APPRECIATION of the Apple and Pear acquisition plan was expressed at a meeting of representatives from the principal Apple and Pear growing districts of the State held at the Commercial Travellers' Association on October 31.

Mr. G. W. Brown (Red Hill) who presided, stated that a petition favoring continuance of acquisition had been signed by over 1,200 Victorian growers, harvesting 2½ million bushels of Apples and Pears. He stated that the recent Melbourne Town Hall meeting was not representative of Apple and Pear growers, and two unfortunate experiences were (1) that Goulburn Valley growers favoring acquisition had not been permitted to speak, and (2) the Chairman of that meeting had suppressed telegrams from growers and organisations who favored acquisition. He (Mr. Brown) took particular exception to the fact that State Boards for Onions, eggs, etc., had been linked with the Apple and Pear scheme, which was a war measure only.

Speakers were emphatic that an impression of grower opposition had been deliberately cultivated and that this was, in fact, confined to a relatively small section.

Other speakers said the public was being misled; there was ample evidence that much of the opposition to the Apple and Pear Board had been inspired by selfish dealer interests and by speculators who were no longer able to exploit the industry.

Those present recognised the disability they suffered through distance preventing them from attending metropolitan meetings, and one speaker suggested that special trains be arranged to bring 2,000 growers to the city for a mass demonstration of support for the scheme.

On the motion of Messrs. F. W. Jarman (Red Hill) and H. Willoughby (Tyabb) it was unanimously decided—

"That this meeting representing growers of over 2½ million cases of Apples and Pears thank the Federal Government for acquiring the Apple and Pear crops for the past two years and earnestly requests a continuance of acquisition for the duration of the war."

"That the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hogan) be asked to advocate the continuance of acquisition at the meeting of the Commonwealth Council of Agriculture."

It was decided to form an Apple and Pear Growers' Protection Association.

A further motion was carried asking the Apple and Pear Board to refute the unfair and misleading criticism which had been constantly appearing in some sections of the press.

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Arsenate of Lead

Paste or Powder.

Package, 56 lb., 28 lb., and 4 lb.



Codlin Moth Tree Bands

Chemically Treated.

200 ft. Rolls.



Lime Sulphur Wash

Minimum Polysulphide Sulphur, 20 per cent. Package, 44 Gal., 4 Gal.



Copper Sulphate Neige

98/99 per cent.

Package, 1 cwt. and 56 lb.



Nicotine Sulphate 40°/o

Guaranteed 40 per cent.

Package, 1 Gal., ½ Gal.



Prepared White Oil

89 per cent. Mineral Oil.

Package, 44 Gal., 4 Gal.



Colloidal Sulphur

50 per cent. Sulphur, Weight for Weight. Package, Cases, 8 x 5 lb. Jars.

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Goulburn Valley (Vic.) News and Notes

(By Our Correspondent.)

PROSPECTS for a bountiful season appear assured as a result of the recent beneficial rainfall early in the month, when the soil was well soaked. The transformation to the countryside was marvellous after the long dry spell. Crops and pastures have made prolific growth, while the orchards in the Valley are looking particularly well, and normal crops of fruit are in sight.

W.B.C. Pears have again set a reasonably good crop. Although there are some patches on the light side, and it is not expected the crop will be as heavy as last year.

The first spraying of arsenate of lead on the Pears was completed on or about October 22.

Shortage of Labor.

Great anxiety prevails in the Goulburn Valley over the shortage of labor to harvest the coming fruit crop, which is so important to the nation during the war years. Last year's stocks of canned fruits have all been sold, and it is expected there will be a keen demand from the British and Australian Governments for the coming crop. Therefore an adequate supply of labor is urgently required. The Executives of the Fruit Growers' Associations have the matter in hand and are doing everything possible to make suitable arrangements for harvesting the crop, but so far it seems impossible to see where seasonal labor is to come from. Already the orchards are short of permanent men, most of whom have gone into the A.I.F., the Militia, or munitions.

One of the leaders of the industry states that in the early part of the picking season the Goulburn Valley would want about 1,000 seasonal workers, if the crop was normal, and later on, at the commencement of the harvesting the W.B.C. Pear crop, 2,000 pickers would be wanted. In addition to these men, the canneries would need large numbers of workers, including girls.

GIPPSLAND & NORTHERN CO-OPERATIVE CO. LTD.

A successful year was reported at the 36th annual meeting of the company held on October 15, and presided over by the chairman, Mr. J. Langham.

The net profit disclosed was £36,716, and the payment of a 5 per cent. dividend was recommended.

Shepparton E.: At the Annual Field Day of the Shepparton E. Young Farmers' Club, over £16 was raised for war relief funds by the sale of exhibits. Lectures were given by R. Clarke regarding the Peach nursery project; H. Cook, "Budding"; Isobel Clayton, "Cooking"; and Rosemary Preston, "Draining."

In a normal season's production in that area was about 5,000 tons of Apricots, 20,000 tons of Pears, and 25,000 tons of Peaches, as well as a quantity of dessert fruits, Plums and Quinces. Growers would be quite unable to handle that quantity without a full supply of seasonal workers.

Extra Payment on Fruit.

Canning fruit growers have been particularly gratified by receiving extra payment from co-operative canning companies in the Goulburn Valley for Apricots, Pears, and Peaches.

The payments by the Shepparton Preserving Co. were on the following basis:—Peaches (per ton), £3; Pears and Apricots, £2; Quinces, Figs, and Plums, £1.

Since this payment was made, this progressive company have still made a further extra payment.

Kyabram Cannery paid on the following basis:—Peaches, Pears, and Apricots, £1/10/- per ton; and the Ardmona Cannery paid a bonus as follows:—Peaches, Pears, and Apricots, £1 per ton.

The Metropolitan Proprietary Canning Factories have also paid a bonus of £1 per ton on canning Peaches only. It is understood that representation is being made by Mr. W. Young to the Proprietary Companies for a further payment of £1 per ton on Pears and Apricots, so that growers who sell portion of their crop each year to Melbourne factories will not be placed at a financial disadvantage.

In the opinion of representative district fruitgrowers, the bonus payments will tend to increase the loyalty of suppliers to co-operative canneries.

These payments also were urgently needed to offset the rising cost of production.

Shepparton Tomato Growers' Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of Shepparton Tomato Growers' Association was held at Shepparton on October 18. Mr. L. Pithers was re-elected President unopposed.

It was predicted that even if the State Parliament passed the necessary legislation to enable growers to take a poll, it was unlikely that a Marketing Board would be established in time to deal with the coming season's Tomatoes.

The Association formulated its policy with regard to prices.

The meeting rejected a proposal that the Association should insist on a minimum price of 4/- per case for canning quality Tomatoes, and adopted an amendment: That growers demand 3/6 a case on farm, case found, for Tomatoes on a fair average basis.

The President told members that he expected a shortage of Tomatoes and a big demand by manufacturers this season, and it was also pointed out that the very substantial price increase was justified by three main factors: (1) Increased costs of production; (2) the labor shortage, which would produce a considerable decrease of acreage under production; (3) the huge demand for Tomatoes on the part of the British and Australian Governments.

An urgent appeal to all growers was made by the President and Secretary, not to enter into contracts with factories unless they received the minimum price sought by the Association.

Election of Office-Bearers:

President, Mr. L. Pithers; Vice-Presidents, Mr. W. A. Galt and Cr. W. J. Trevaskis; Secretary, Mr. A. T. B. Goyen; Committee, Messrs. S. Swainston, E. Laws, H. Ishmail, G. Wright, and J. Black.

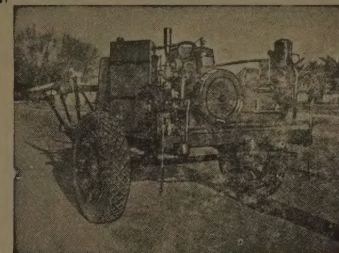
Enjoyable Fruit Growers' Social.

One of the most enjoyable functions held in the district for many years, the smoke social conducted by the Shepparton Fruit Growers' Association, and held in the Shepparton East Hall, was attended by representatives from throughout the district as well as a number of visitors from Melbourne.

The evening was responsible for a considerable sum of money being raised for the Queen of the Orchards.

The toast of the visitors was proposed by Mr. N. Fairless, President of the Shepparton

— THE — BAVE-U POWER SPRAYER



All models can be fitted with pneumatic tyres at little extra cost.

Write for Particulars

**Russell Burrows
Pty. Ltd.**

Box Hill, E.11 Victoria

Fruit Growers' Association, who was in the chair.

He welcomed Mr. W. P. Hutchinson, of Tyabb, a member of the Apple and Pear Board; Mr. Malcolm, of the Closer Settlement Board and Victorian Man Power Officer; Mr. J. M. Ward, of the Department of Agriculture; Mr. C. W. McRostie, Victorian representative of several interstate fruit growers' organizations; and Mr. J. Monk, manager of Ardmona Cannery.

CITRUS PRODUCTION IN VICTORIA.

The 1940-41 Season Was Heavier Than 1939-40.

In the season 1940-41, Victoria produced 729,970 bushels of citrus fruits as compared with 544,208 bushels in 1939-40 according to figures supplied by the Government Statistician.

The following figures show the quantities, in bushels of the several kinds of citrus in 1940-1941, with the figures for 1939-40 in brackets.

Oranges: Navels, 415,729 (305,689); Valencias, 217,485 (167,351); Grapefruit, 30,157 (20,744); Commons, 26,322 (19,413); Mediterranean Sweet, 14,357 (10,316); Mandarins, 15,082 (12,638); Sevilles, 10,838 (8,057). The number of growers was 2,068 in 1940-41, as compared with 2,077 in 1939-40.

In Preparing Your Bordeaux Sprays Use . . .

ESA BLUESTONE

— Manufactured by —

THE ELECTROLYTIC REFINING & SMELTING COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA LTD.
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**The Right Material for Plant Disease Prevention and Control
GUARANTEED 99% PURITY**

GRADES—Mixed Crystals, Fines, Granulated (Snow), Packed in Suitable Containers for Growers' Requirements.

Agents for All States: ELDER SMITH & COMPANY LIMITED, All Capital Cities.

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APPLE AND PEAR ACQUISITION.

DEFENCE LEAGUE VIEWS.

The Editor,
"Fruit World,"

Sir,

When the statement was made by me to the effect that 7,000,000 cases of Apples and Pears were ordered to rot, this was an understatement of what really did happen. Large quantities of fruit fell to the ground through wrong picking instructions from Board officials. The quantity of this destroyed fruit is considerably in excess of the average export quantity. In the light of these facts it is absurd for Mr. Baker to claim an increase in sales. Strangely enough Mr. Soothill states that sales have been depressed by the psychological effect of the anti-Board protests. Now gentlemen, you cannot have it both ways. Do make up your minds and agree upon your utterances to be made in public before making them.

The nett average return to the grower for his Apples was considerably lower than 3/6 per case, as low as 1/- per case being advanced for excellent quality fruit. However, the fact that the average cost of selling in Australia by the grower prior to Board control was 2/9 per case, and the cost is now 4/6 to 5/- under Board control, clearly illustrates how uneconomic marketing becomes when 10,000 growers are deprived of

the right to sell their own fruit and a dictatorial monopoly is set up in their place.

Apples may have been in excess of demand in previous years, but growers of initiative did not go crying to the Government for help. They used the brains and energy with which they were endowed (which in those days they were free to do) and in numerous instances came out of their difficulties with flying colors. To judge by the remarks of the growers, the retailers, and the general public we have disruption, disorder and despair in the Apple and Pear business to-day. If Mr. Baker does not call this chaos I would advise him to consult his dictionary.

Yours, etc.,

E. SERPELL,
Hon. Secretary,

Fruitgrowers' and Primary Producers' Defence League of Australia.

Doncaster, Vic., 23/10/41.

COMMENT BY THE BOARD SECRETARY.

Commenting on the foregoing, Mr. H. A. Baker states there is no inconsistency in the statements relative to sales.

Sales have increased, but not to anything like the extent they might have done but for the anti-Board propaganda.

How far such propaganda has involved distortion growers themselves are able to judge from the foregoing letter, as well as press propaganda of a like type.

APPLE AND PEAR ACQUISITION.

Case Supply Assured.

A deputation from Apple and Pear growers in N.S.W. waited on the Assistant Minister for Commerce, Senator Fraser, at the end of October, requesting a continuance of the acquisition plan. It was stated that N.S.W. Orchardists had marketed about 900,000 bushels of Apples and 300,000 bushels of Pears. The only fruit wasted was about 20,000 cases of unwanted varieties and 250,000 cases of hail damaged fruit.

Senator Fraser said that, irrespective of the future of the Apple and Pear acquisition scheme, arrangements had been made to ensure supplies of cases and other necessary materials for growers for next season.

(Further Acquisition News on p. 24.)

TASMANIA.

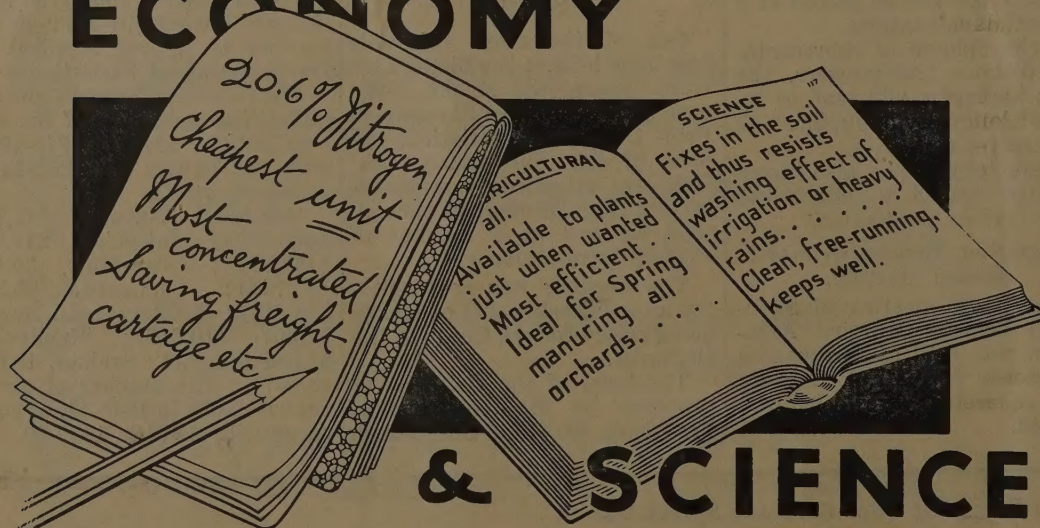
Cygnnet (19/10/41): Re crop prospects, it is too soon yet to say with any certainty, but bloom is heavy on practically all varieties of Apples and Pears.

"Pink" spray, application of which has been retarded in most places by windy weather, is done but blossoms on some varieties of Apples is not yet fully out.

There is still time for something to happen to upset the setting of a full crop.—C. L. Ivey.

(Further Tasmanian News on page 27.)

ECONOMY



& SCIENCE

IT WINS ON BOTH COUNTS — SULPHATE of AMMONIA

IS MAKING MONEY

FOR GROWERS OF ALL CROPS

LET IT HELP YOU WITH YOURS

Summer Topping of Apple Trees to Utilise Excess Vigor

(D. T. Kilpatrick, Fruit Instructor, N.S.W. Dept. of Agriculture.)

THE EFFECT OF THE TOPPING of growth in the Summer time is to cause a reduction of vigor. In some seasons of excessive vigor, the Summer topping of Apples may be employed to enable a greater length of leader to be retained at the next Winter pruning than would otherwise be considered desirable; again it may be used to improve the lateral furnishing in a tree. When these benefits can be obtained with not more than a temporary check in tree size or when larger favorable development can be induced than would normally occur, topping may be practised confidently. Care should be taken, however, that it is not overdone, when it may be attended with some stunting in tree size—especially as it is possible, in many cases, to modify Winter pruning methods to yield somewhat similar results to those obtained from Summer work.

Where dry seasonal conditions have prevailed, the Summer-topping of Apple trees has been a fairly precarious practice. Indeed, it is a practice which, in almost any season, is attended by some slight degree of risk and may not, under any circumstances, be applied to trees which are not growing vigorously.

Even under circumstances in which vigorous growth is being obtained, a check made too early or on the late side may result in a certain amount of stunting being induced in the tree. A similar effect may result, too, if the checking is done just prior to or during a period of temporary slow growth such as might be associated with a cold snap, a cultivation neglected or missed, a severe leaf infection of black spot, a spray application, etc.

No exact time or stage of growth can be specified without reference to a multiplicity of conditions, but excellent results have been observed when leaders have been topped at from 9 to 18 inches in height, and when the amount of top removed has varied from a light pinching out of the growing point to the removal of 2 inches of tender growth.

Relationship to Winter Pruning.

Considered from another aspect, this operation is directly related to the system of Winter pruning which has been adopted by each individual grower. Success or failure is dependent upon the usefulness to which the resultant growth can be put at the following Winter pruning, so that an early topping, say at 9 inches, would probably be preferred by a grower who normally hard prunes the leaders, while a check at 18 inches may suit one

who would not be adverse to pruning to a length, say, 12 inches above that again.

Summer topping appears to possess possibilities which lend themselves to a long leader or occasional uncut leader system of pruning rather than to a system of hard pruning.

Generally speaking, topping may be carried out only with non-bearing trees or trees just coming into bearing. It should not be practised at a very early age when it is more likely to cause the trees to become stunted before they are thoroughly established; nor is it particularly desirable to cause trees to become densely furnished immediately above the crotch. All the furnishing desired with 2 feet of the crotch can generally be obtained without having resort to Summer work. Summer topping of young trees can, however, be used to advantage in the case of badly balanced trees by pinching back strong leader growth. The practice is also useful to give young trees a better spread.

Unfortunately, with most varieties, Summer topping does not, as a rule, cause shoots to arise evenly distributed upon the current growth, but, for the most part, gives rise to two or possibly three laterals, immediately behind the new main leader. Judicious treatment of these, however, whether pruning for large lateral built spurs or secondary leaders, will materially assist in building up limb thickness, an important factor when a system of long pruning and long topping is being practised. — "N.S.W. Agricultural Gazette."

Dried Fruits News

THE SULPHURING OF APRICOTS.

C.S.I.R. Recommendations.

APRICOT DRYING, which commences early in December, is not difficult, although close adherence to certain simple rules is essential. Set out below are the recommendations of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and by following these, growers should experience little difficulty in keeping the sulphur content below 14 grains per pound.

Maturity: It is essential that all fruit be picked "eating ripe" and that, when cutting, all firm or overripe fruit should be put to one side and either discarded or sulphured separately. It is recognised that firm fruit absorbs sulphur less readily than ripe.

Type of Chamber: A number of small air-tight chambers are recommended in preference to one large one, so that fruit shall not be held for any length of time after cutting and before sulphuring. For example, when using 6 feet x 3 feet trays the size of the chamber should be sufficient to accommodate a stack of about fifteen trays, with a clearance of about 6 inches between the trays and the sides and top of the chamber. Trays should be staggered 6 inches when stacking.

Two controllable vent holes, 1 inch diameter and about 1 foot apart, should be provided in the roof of the chamber close to the wall farthest from the sulphur fire when one fire is used, or in the centre of the roof where a fire is used at each end of the chamber.

A movable vent-glass is a desirable adjunct in order to view the conditions inside the chamber and to test the condition of samples of the fruit.

ACQUISITION DEFENDED.

A grower at a recent Victorian conference on the subject of acquisition said that the position of the export grower was that when his shipping was lost he was only too glad to know that the Government had provided life-boats. The growers realised that they could not have liner facilities in these, but were incensed at attempts to sink them. If local and export growers were thrown into the water together, the position would be appalling, with drowning men dragging each other down to their doom.

Quantity of Sulphur: Seven to eight pounds of sulphur per ton of fresh cut fruit should prove ample, and it is essential that the sulphur be dry in order to burn readily. The sulphur pit should preferably be located just outside at one, or both, ends of the chamber, with a free entrance into the chamber, and adequate provision for closing the air inlet after the vents are blocked. Use a minimum amount of inflammable material to light the sulphur, and when fumes are issuing freely from the vents close the latter with tightly-fitting corks.

State of Fruit: It is desirable to sulphur as quickly as possible after cutting, preferably within two hours. (Hence the desirability, under (b), of a number of small chambers.)

Fruit should be stacked from the bottom upwards in the order in which it is cut as freshly-cut fruit absorbs sulphur dioxide more readily than that cut some time prior to sulphuring.

(Continued on page 20.)

FRUITGROWERS



Make sure of your results by using

STANDARDISED Spraying Materials

● Alboleum

(White Oil Emulsion)

● Arsinette

(Lead Arsenate Powder)

● Drymac

(Standardised Derris Dust)

● Wetsul

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● Bordinette

(Standardised Copper Fungicide)

● Katakilla

(Standardised Derris Wash)

● Nicotine

Insecticide

(A Standard Preparation)

Obtainable at all Fruitgrowers' Associations, etc.

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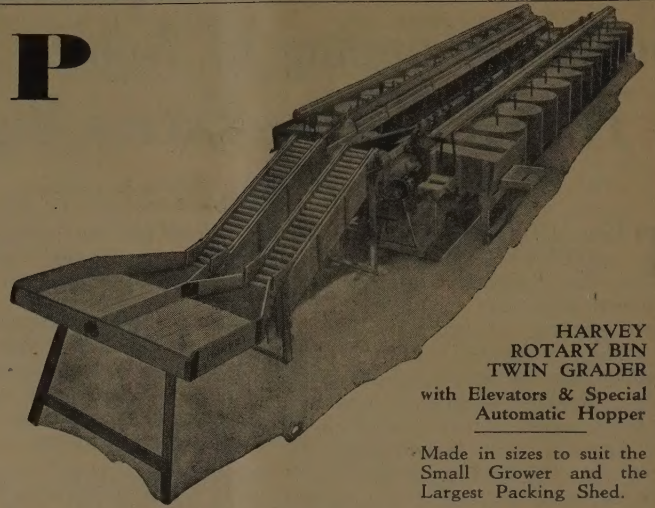
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INTRODUCING

Rotary Bin Grading Equipment

OUTSTANDING ADVANTAGES:

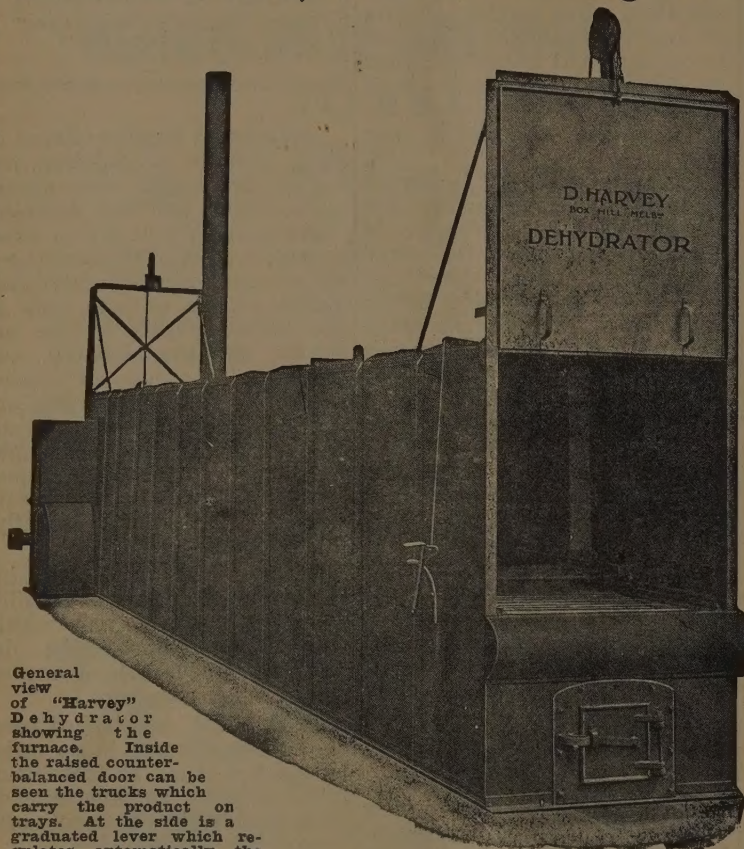
"Harvey" Rotary Bins considerably increase average daily output. Stem punctures and bruising eliminated. The packing surface in the bin slowly passes the Packer—no pawing of fruit by Packer. Packers average 10% to 15% more output per day with less fatigue. Handles the most tender variety of Apples and Pears without injury. Deflectors to run the predominating sizes into two or more bins—no time lost by throwing the major bulk of work on to one or two Packers.



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ROTARY BIN
TWIN GRADER
with Elevators & Special
Automatic Hopper

Made in sizes to suit the
Small Grower and the
Largest Packing Shed.

Citrus Graders, Citrus Polishing Machines and Packing House Equipment



General view of "Harvey" Dehydrator showing the furnace. Inside the raised counter-balanced door can be seen the trucks which carry the product on trays. At the side is a graduated lever which regulates automatically the dry and moist air. The blower and stack are shown in the distance.

BRYTENE PLANTS
CITRUS PROCESSING PLANTS
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GRAVITY CONVEYORS
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The "Harvey" Citrus Washing Plants

SAVE SPACE — CAN BE USED WITH HOT OR COLD WATER.

Fruitgrowers —

The "Harvey" Air Re-Circulation Dehydrator

Solves the Problem of Marketing The Fruit Crop

SUCH AS APPLES, PEARS, PRUNES, APRICOTS, PEACHES, SULTANAS, Etc

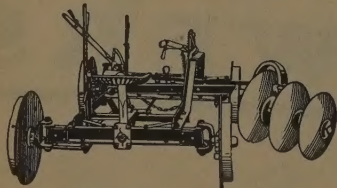
It is the best, cheapest, and most efficient type of dehydrator known. Used by all the most up-to-date Packing Houses and Sheds.

Large Output — Economical to Operate

The Fruit is placed in one end and comes out at the other dried to Perfection.

REMOVE SPRAY WITH THE "HARVEY" NEW HORSE HAIR BELT TYPE POLISHING MACHINE.

"HARVEY" IMPLEMENTS Make Good Work Easy



"HARVEY" built "PETTY" PLOW; Plows out strips which have not been plowed for years. Cuts through couch grass with the greatest of ease. Also plows up to the trees and in the centre. **DISC CULTIVATING GANG** can be attached in place of Disc Plow Gang.



"HARVEY" 3-FURROW TRACTOR POWER LIFT HB7 MOULDBOARD ORCHARD PLOW: A one-man job. Built in sizes from two to six furrows

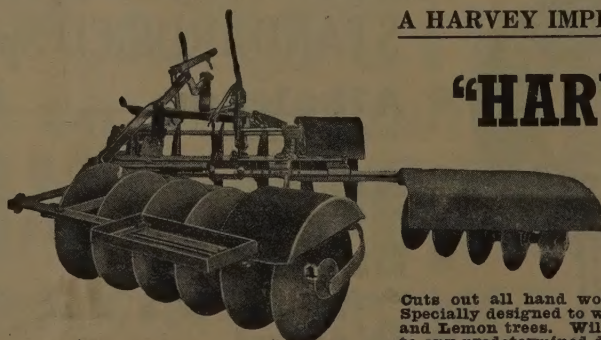


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A HARVEY IMPLEMENT FOR EVERY NEED.



"HARVEY" PATENT OFFSET TANDEM DISC CULTIVATOR: Cultivates right up to the butts of the trees or vines while the Tractor is driven right out in the middle of the row. Proved to be an excellent machine for deeply cultivating heavy irrigated land.



bearing limbs without injuring the fruit or fibrous roots. Cuts out all weeds without clogging.

"HARVEY" CITRUS DISC ATTACHMENT

WITH HOOD FITTED TO WORK WITH "HARVEY" PATENT OFFSET TANDEM TRACTOR DISC CULTIVATOR.

Cuts out all hand working under citrus trees, and keeps the ground level. Specially designed to work right under the limbs up to the trunks of the Orange and Lemon trees. Will lift limbs loaded with fruit off the ground, cultivating to any predetermined depth, and then gently putting back in position the fruit-

bearing limbs without injuring the fruit or fibrous roots. Cuts out all weeds without clogging.

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BOX HILL, VICTORIA

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S.A.—Cole & Woodham, Box 12, Renmark.

Southern Tasmania—Wm. Crosby & Coy. Pty. Ltd., Collins St., Hobart.
Northern Tasmania—Max Geaves, 177 Brisbane St., Launceston.
Queensland—Buzacott (Queensland) Ltd., 443 Adelaide St., Brisbane.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area

CROP FORECAST — VALENCIAS FOR N.Z. — CHALLENGE TO PACKERS — CODLING MOTH SPRAY — GROWERS CO-OPERATE RE LABOUR — DRAINAGE PROGRAMME CURTAILED.

(By Our Local Correspondent.)

Crop Forecast: With record crops of canning fruit and wine Grapes last season, even better crops are expected in the coming season if present indications are maintained. Apricot and Almond crops also promise to be heavy, and the Apple crop, always tricky to estimate on the Area, is expected to be quite good for Granny Smiths and light for red varieties.

Valencias for N.Z.: Harvesting of Valencia Oranges is in full swing, and huge quantities are being forwarded to New Zealand. Packing sheds are very busy coping with orders. On visiting the sheds one is impressed with the scene of activity. Many more girl packers than usual are being employed. This, no doubt, is due to the fact that many of the regular male packers have enlisted, while others have migrated to the city on munitions work.

Packing Records: A challenge is thrown out to the other fruit districts of the Commonwealth to beat many records put up by employees of the Griffith Producers Co.-Op. Ltd. The previous packing record was held by Ken. Pearce, who wrapped and packed 28,000 Oranges in one shift (8½ hours). Ken. is not now working at Griffith, and it is possible he has bettered this record elsewhere. Recently, Jack Blomfield put up the splendid tally of 27,500 Oranges wrapped, packed and stacked in export cases, in 8½ hours.

Eric Leonard and Herb Keeling, working as a team, nailed down and wired 1,360 in one day. Working on his own, Eric lidded and wired 550 export cases. This means nailing the lid on, placing the metal strap across the centre and wiring each end of the case. Eric and Herb, working with Bill Murray, put up the following tally in one week with overtime: 4,600 export cases, 2,200 two-bushel cases and 3,050 one-bushel cases. Bill Morgan holds the

ribbon for case-making with the amazing tally of 87 bushel cases per hour. Now then other fruit districts, what about it?

Griffith Producers' Co-op. Successful Year: The annual meeting of the Griffith Producers' Co.-op. Ltd., was held at the packing shed recently, Mr. V. C. Williams, chairman of the company presiding. The year's accounts, which showed a profit of £4,471/3/11, were adopted.

The members decided to adopt five prisoners of war under the scheme of the Australian Red Cross Society. The staff of the company had already adopted one.

Appreciation was expressed by the members to the directors, management and staff on the very successful result of the year's operations.

It was announced that several records were broken during the past season; the canning, Valencia, and Apple crops being the biggest yet handled by the company.

The turnover in the trading department was also a record, and so was the tonnage handled through the bulk trucks, and the freight paid to the Railway Department. The profit earned was also the highest yet recorded.

Irrigation Methods: Seasonal operations are well advanced. The third rotation of irrigation is now being applied. Many and varied are the methods of application. Growers interested in improving their technique, are referred to recent articles in the N.S.W. Agricultural Gazette.

Codling Moth Sprays are now being applied, and to assist Apple and Pear growers generally, the following recommendations have been set out by Mr. E. J. Wason, Entomologist, stationed at Leeton.

The overwintering brood has commenced to emerge. Taking this into consideration, as well as that of the rapid increase of

the size of the young fruit, growers are strongly advised to apply this spray as soon as possible.

The spray recommended is lead arsenate 3 lb. to 100 gallons of water plus a spreader. Do not use an excess of spreader. A thorough cover of both fruit and foliage, paying particular attention to the upper portions, especially in the case of big trees, is essential. The trees should be sprayed, first on the inside, then on the outside, commencing at the top in each instance.

Growers to Co-operate on Labor Problem: Growers are anxious to solve what is considered to be a major problem in the supply of labor for the coming picking season.

Members of the Leeton Fruit-growers' Co-operative Society, at their annual meeting, resolved that every fruitgrower should be approached by the Society to ascertain his labor requirements and the dates he will need assistance, so that appropriate action may be taken to approach the necessary authorities.

Mr. Savage, Chief of the Division of Horticulture, Department of Agriculture, states that the labor shortage is acute in all country districts and the fruit industry requires a lot of casual labor for short periods.

That the State Labor Exchange of the Department of Labor and Industry is aware of the position and anxious to take steps to cope with the position is quite evident by the fact that an officer of that Department is to visit the Area at the end of October.

Waterlogging: Drainage Programme Curtailed: Waterlogging of orchard lands is one of the bugbears of the Area settlers. "In my electorate there are farms that are dying from seepage, yet it seems that expenditure on that work will have to be curtailed." The Member for Murrumbidgee (Mr. Enticnap) said that in the Legislative Assembly in a criticism on the reduction of loan money to N.S.W. by the Loan Council.

A sum of £17,000 had been proposed for the work, spread over three years, Mr. Enticnap stated. It was not right that the

Loan Council should be able to determine the requirements of such a large State as N.S.W. The Loan Council had overridden the wishes of the four largest States.

The previous Minister for Agriculture had visited the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area at the request of the settlers to inspect the bad drainage system. As a result of that visit a three years' programme of drainage had been put in operation. But, added Mr. Enticnap, the Loan Council had cut down the financial requirements of N.S.W. below the amount recommended by the Co-ordinator-General of Works. The reduction of loan moneys would jeopardise the progress of water conservation works in Australia.

"Our irrigation works should be extended in the interests of soldiers who return from the war," the Member for Murrumbidgee said. "Had the Murrumbidgee irrigation works not been constructed, I do not know what would have become of many men who returned from the last war. These works should not be deferred until after the war. They should be put into operation as soon as possible in order to make provision for returned soldier settlement after hostilities have ended."

Strong exception was taken by members of the Griffith Producers at the annual meeting to a statement made by the Minister for Agriculture, Capt. W. F. Dunn, reported in the "Area News" in August last, to the effect that seepage was not the fault of the Commission, or of experts, but the fault of bad watering on the part of the settler.

It was conceded that bad watering practices have been the cause of some of the troubles on the farms, but the Minister was badly informed indeed if he imagined that it was the whole cause.

Speakers asserted that serious damage had been done to orchards by seepage from leaking supply channels and, no matter what the farmer does on the farm, he has no control over this outside seepage.

He sees his trees gradually declining and, when he complains, has been invariably

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New South Wales Notes—(Continued)

shown graphs showing that the water sinks downwards, and not laterally, and if he alters his irrigation methods he has no cause for worry.

This year, however, the Commission made big efforts to repair some of its leaking canals and channels and, in sections of the Area, old sections of concrete supply ditches had been pulled up and new ones laid down. The channels had been patched in many parts of the Area, which, to the settler, is evidence that the Commission has at last realised that the fault may not always be with him.

However, it is extremely doubtful if a lot of this patchwork is going to be effective. Something more substantial is required. It will be of no use spending large sums to drain the Area if the supply channels are faulty.

Apricots: The first harvest operations on the Area will be with the Trevatt Apricot crop. The major portion of the crop is contracted to the canners, but many growers forward to the fresh fruit markets, while most settlers dry the 'cots, which, because of the quick ripening of this class of fruit, becomes too advanced for other purposes.

Orange Producers' Rural Co-operative Society Ltd. :: Sales Record Established.

THE sixteenth annual meeting of the Society was well attended, Mr. W. B. Pascoe, acting-chairman of the Board of Directors, presiding. The Society had a record year, the sales increase over last year amounting to £24,794. A nett profit of £2,334 was disclosed and a bonus of 5 per cent. on shareholders' purchases was recommended.

Crop loading for the year was particularly heavy, some of the figures mentioned being 10,000 tons of fruit and 2,500 tons of peas.

The directors elected were:—Messrs. R. Campbell, W. B. Pascoe, E. Griffith, Fox Martin, and E. L. Sampson. The other members of the board are Messrs. D. H. Hawke, D. N. McClymont, W. J. Nancarrow, and A. U. Tonking.

Messrs. G. Hawke and D. Plowman did not seek re-election.

ORANGE, N.S.W., COOL STORES.

Busy Season Reported.

The 12th annual report of the Orange 'Fruitgrowers' Co-op. Cool Stores Ltd. showed that record quantities of fruit were handled by the stores for the year ending June, 1941. The nett profit was £945 and the Board directed that a 5 per cent. dividend of £283 be paid.

The election of directors resulted:—Messrs. R. H. Greene, W. J. Nancarrow, A. U. Tonking, R. Campbell, J. Plowman and A. J. Boyd. The other members of the board are Messrs. W. B. Pascoe, J. H. Wright, and D. H. Hawke.

GRIFFITH PRODUCERS' CO-OPERATIVE.

The annual report of the Griffith Producers' Co-op. Co. Ltd. for the year ending June, 1941, disclosed a net profit of £4,471. This was obtained with a turnover in the store of £60,470, which represented an increase of approximately £13,000 over that of last year.

It was recommended that payment of interest be made on paid-up share capital at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

The report also covered, very fully, the fruit products handled by the Society, which included citrus, dried fruits, Peaches and Apples and Pears. In referring to the Acquisition, the directors considered that the Apple and Pear scheme, although it had come in for a lot of criticism, had been the means of saving the industry from ruin. The Apple crop had turned out a very good one and the prices paid by the Board for the popular varieties were, generally speaking, considered satisfactory.

VALUE OF FRUIT JUICES.

Stressed by National Fitness Council.

THE NEED for the increased consumption of pure fruit juices in the interests of national health was emphasised in a resolution carried at the meeting of the Commonwealth National Fitness Council, held at Sydney at the end of October.

Mrs. Weber, M.L.A. (Victoria) who has taken a keen interest in this matter for a considerable time past, stated that much of the fruit which now goes to waste could be turned into fruit juices to the betterment of the health of the people here and the troops abroad.

Mr. H. V. Smith (Manager Batlow Packing House Co-operative) states that plans need to be synchronised for increased juice production and educational publicity. Apple juice could be prepared as a concentrate for serving with soda water at cafes and restaurants.

Mr. Lynch, of the Food Research Laboratory, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Homebush, N.S.W., points out the need for concentrating juices of citrus fruits and Grapes as well as Apples for easier transport in bulk for local use and export. Regarding Apple by-products there is a big demand as yet unfilled for pectin.

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Meeting of Fruitgrowers' Federation of New South Wales

FUTURE ORGANISATION — FRUIT CASE CONTROL — WIRE AND NAIL SHORTAGE — CARTAGE PROBLEMS — PUBLIC MARKETS — FARMERS' RELIEF BILL — REGULATION OF TRADING HOURS — LEMON PUBLICITY — APPLE AND PEAR MATTERS — FRUIT JUICES — GRADING OF FRUIT.

A meeting of the Board of the Federation was held in Sydney on October 9 and 10, Mr. F. B. Mackenzie presiding. Those present were: General J. Heans, Messrs. H. A. Stevenson (Murwillumbah), A. A. Wilkinson (Uralla), A. E. Horne (Kingsvale), S. A. Stanford (Orange), C. F. Knight (Wedgeburn), A. E. Lillicrapp (Mangrove Mountain), H. C. Matheson (Grose Wold), A. J. Taylor (Warkworth), C. G. Savage (Chief, Division of Horticulture), L. T. Pearce (Market Representative), and Miss G. Symons (Assistant Secretary).

Apologies were received from Mr. A. S. Brown (overseas), Mr. P. W. James (military service), and Colonel E. E. Herrod (military service).

Future Organisation: The President reported that the proposals submitted to the State Government regarding plans for the future organisation had not met with much success. It was essential, however, that the individual fruitgrowers and other organisations should be unified in some central organisation to represent the industry. To some extent a district, and the particular fruit of a district, lost its individuality once it entered upon its journey to the market. There was need for some central organisation to negotiate in regard to these matters of common interest. This need was particularly apparent to those growers who were not affiliated with a packing house or a co-operative society.

In considering the report of the President, the Board decided to wait upon the Minister for Agriculture by deputation, and to request that the Minister call a Conference of fruitgrowers which would be representative of all districts, groups, and all types of fruit. It was believed that such a conference called by the Government should be able to decide the particular type and pretensions of the organisation required, and the method of finance to which the growers would subscribe.

Finance: A method of finance suggested was that many growers throughout the State would be willing to contribute to the support of the new organisation at the same rate as had existed under the Orchard Registration Fee, and that payment of 1/- per acre to the new organisation should enable the establishment and conduct of a body which, if somewhat more restricted than the Federation, at least could attend to vital matters on behalf of the fruitgrowers.

Fruit Cases: The President advised that, as a result of Mr. Pearce's investigations into reports of rising costs of fruit cases, and the general scarcity of both bushel and half bushel cases, the following conclusions had been reached:—

(1) New Cases.

Since prewar days, prices have risen 44-66 per cent., and owing to box manufacturers' preference for Government contracts under the "cost plus" system, the manufacture of fruit cases has been neglected.

(2) Secondhand Cases.

(a) There is a reduced quantity of secondhand cases in circulation, due, among other reasons, to fewer imports of fruit to N.S.W. from other States and to lessened operations of cross-country truck dealers who have been restricted by manpower and petrol shortages. Also wholesale houses and manufacturers are collecting and using fruit cases for distribution of their goods.

(b) Prices have increased since pre-war days by probably 100 per cent. in relation to Canadian bushel, and lidded softwood flat half cases.

(c) Country carriers, agents and case dealers are competing to secure supplies of secondhand cases for grower clients, this enabling the retailer to "sell to the highest bidder."

The President reported that, as a result of these investigations, the Minister of Agriculture had been advised of this serious state of affairs, and his attention drawn to the Queensland Secondhand Fruit Cases Act which confined the use of fruit cases to the fruit and vegetable industries and was designed to prevent rising values.

It was also pointed out that growers using the Newcastle market lost the ownership of their fruit cases as a result of the dealer-buyers declining to recognise the deposit system.

Mr. J. Blick, Junior, who until recently had been Secretary of the Committee in Brisbane administering the Queensland Second-hand Fruit Cases Act, imparted some very interesting information regarding the low costs of administering the Queensland Act, and its effectiveness in ensuring supplies of cases to fruitgrowers. The Act also, Mr. Blick stated, had been most effective in checking rising costs, the price of fruit cases in Queensland being consider-

ably below the price in New South Wales at the present time.

Following a discussion on the subject, it was resolved to urge the Minister for Agriculture to introduce legislation in New South Wales similar to the Queensland Secondhand Fruit Cases Act (1940), and to request the Minister to treat the matter as one of urgency. Mr. H. A. Stevenson, on behalf of the Apple and Pear N.S.W. Committee, stated that the Apple and Pear Board had also recommended the introduction of legislation similar to the Queensland Act referred to.

Supply of Wire and Nails: The President reported having advised the Minister for Agriculture of a shortage of wire and nails which was affecting the fruit case position, and also the strapping of fruit cases being forwarded on long journeys. The Minister had replied pointing out that he had requested the Premier's Department to take action without delay by requesting the Commonwealth authorities to arrange sufficient supply of these materials for the fruit industry.

Cartage Problems: At the request of the Master Fruit Carriers' Association, the President called a round table conference in September to discuss matters relating to cartage to the Sydney markets. Representatives of the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries and the Master Fruit Carriers attended, and as a result of the discussion, it was believed that quicker release of vehicles would result.

Experiments Subsidy: An application was received from the Department of Agriculture for a subsidy regarding certain experiments which were being conducted in regard to Black Spot of Citrus, Peach Rust and Black Spot of Apple and Pear, and it was decided to request the Minister for Agriculture to grant the sum of £156 so that these experiments might be continued.

Alleged Forestalling in No. 6 Vegetable Market: It was reported that the Minister for Agriculture and the Sydney City Council had been advised of the viewpoint of the Fruitgrowers' Federation in regard to methods of selling in the City markets. Letters had been forwarded pointing out the acceptance by the Federation of Recommendation 31 of the Royal Commission Report into the Fruit Industry, which read as follows:—

"Amend the Farm Produce Agents' Act 1926-32 as hereunder:—

(1) Require all operators in public markets to be licensed, and keep prescribed accounts subject to inspection by the Registrar."

It was appreciated that the enquiry being conducted was in regard to the grower-sellers market and related to vegetables, but the large interest which many fruitgrowers had in vegetable production justified the Fed-

eration in expressing its opinion on this subject.

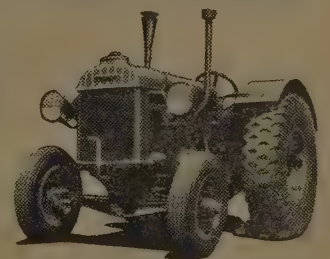
Current Parliamentary Bills: The President drew the attention of Board members to the Federal Government interest in the formation of a Mortgage Bank, and also to the Farmers' Relief (Amendment) Bill at present before the State House. In regard to the latter, the Federation had requested the State Cabinet to provide adequate fruitgrower representation on the Farmers' Relief Board under the amended Act. It was felt that fruitgrower interests could not be adequately represented by those who were not conversant with the specialised problems of fruitgrowing.

Trading Hours of Retailers: With regard to a verbal application from the Australian Fruit-eaters' and Greengrocers' Association for the Board's support in an application before the Industrial Commission for the regulation of retail shop hours, the Board decided "That it would raise no objection to the introduction of a system of zoning regarding trading hours in order to meet special local conditions."

New Federation Branch: An application was received from a group of growers at Crookwell for affiliation with the Fruitgrowers' Federation. The name of the new Association is the Crookwell Fruitgrowers' Association.

Publicity: It was reported that the "Eat More Fruit" Campaign Committee had conducted intensive advertising until the end of September in regard to Lemons. Schools of domestic science in the metropolitan area had been supplied with cases of Lemons and recipe books. The Australian Gas Light Co. and the Sydney City Council had given demonstrations in regard to Lemon dishes. Radio advertising during this campaign had been intensive, and as a result, a limited number of orders for cases of Lemons had been received. Representations were being made for the greater supply of Lemon

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Apple and Pear Matters: Annual General Conference had passed certain resolutions which had been referred to the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Acquisition Committee, and replies on these matters were presented. In regard to the sterilization of second-hand fruit cases, the Committee replied that it had requested the State Government to implement legislation similar to the Queensland Secondhand Fruit Cases Act, and that sterilization of fruit cases could be incorporated in such legislation. The Committee intimated also in regard to the production of Apple juice, that it was collaborating with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research on this matter. Conference had stressed that private growers should be paid the same rate for packing as is paid to packing houses, and

the Board decided to make representations on this matter to the Minister for Commerce. Conference decided that growers' wishes in regard to selection of agents to handle their fruit should be given more consideration, and the N.S.W. Committee replied that this policy had been adhered to whenever possible, and, at least, 90 per cent. of the fruit had been delivered in accordance with the brands placed upon the cases by the growers.

Synthetic Fruit Drinks and Juice: Conference had requested the abolition of all synthetic fruit drinks, and the reply of the Board of Health on this matter stated that "provided the requirements of the regulations regarding quality and labelling are complied with, the sale of fruit juice preparations is not adversely affected, nor the public imposed upon merely because synthetic essences are used in

imitation cordials and drinks prepared therefrom." The Board of Health also provided considerable information regarding regulations governing the manufacture and labelling of drinks.

Grading of Fruit: A general discussion took place regarding the need of greater uniformity in grade standards accepted by inspectors. It was pointed out that there were considerable variations in the opinion of inspectors regarding what comprised "extra fancy, fancy and good grades." Disapproval was also expressed at the custom of some retailers in mixing sizes and grades of Apples when displayed in shop windows and stricter inspection of fruit shops in this regard was advocated.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Batlow (18/10/41): Mr. H. V. Smith, general manager, Batlow Packing House Co-operative Ltd., writes as follows:—

Apples are only just now in full bloom, but the prospects according to the blossom are approximately as follow:—

In general it is expected that there will be as many fruits on the trees as for last season, when a crop of approximately 350,000 loose bushels was harvested. Whether that quantity will be harvested in 1942 will depend upon the kind of season experienced, that is the rainfall and the absence or otherwise of hail injury. The prospects in regard to varieties are as follow:—

Apples: Granny Smiths, heavy; Delicious, medium to good, patchy as compared with last year; Jonathan, light to heavy; Democrats, Stayman Winesap, Yates and Dougherty, good.

Pears: Winter Coles, good to heavy; Packhams, good; Josephines and Williams, medium; other varieties, medium to good.

Approximately 246,000 packed cases of Apples and Pears have been trucked from the packing house siding up to date this season, together with 24,000 bags of potatoes.

Granny Smith and Yates Apples are still being forwarded.

VINES AND CITRUS AT CURLWAA.

The quarterly report, dated September 30, 1941, of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, states that changeable weather characterised the whole of the quarter under review, varying from cold and frosty to warm and hot. Several light frosts in September did not cause any damage to vines.

The report covered the following points:—

A preliminary survey of the settlement has disclosed a satisfactory bud burst on vines. Early indications are that heavy

Future of the Fruitgrowers Federation of N.S.W.

Proposal to Call a State-Wide Conference to Decide.

FOLLOWING the recent vote in N.S.W. against the continuance of the Orchard Registration Fee, the State Government has decided that the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. will go out of existence at the end of the year.

The Minister for Agriculture has announced that he will convene a State-wide conference of fruitgrowers, to decide on any future method of organisation, if requested to do so by resolutions from Fruitgrowers' Associations in the several districts.

:: :: ::

There was a largely attended meeting at Gosford at the end of October, convened by and presided over by Cr. A. E. Lillicrap, a member of the Board of the Federation.

The Chairman outlined the facts detailed above and moved in favor of the convening of the proposed State-wide conference.

Mr. L. E. Pring (Lisarow) said the Government was not consistent in putting the matter of the Orchard Registration Fee to the vote when it compelled its servants to pay Union dues. He favored classifying "orchardists" as those having a minimum of 10 acres under fruit, with a fee of 5/- per acre.

Mr. B. Moore said he had voted to put the Federation out, but something better should be put in its place. There were sufficient packing houses to form councils representing the main sections of the industry.

Mr. W. C. Kelly said his criticism of the Federation was that it was not sufficiently sectionalised. He moved—

That the interests of the citrus growing industry can best be served by the formation of an association of co-operative packing houses and, in districts where such organisations do not exist, by associations of citrus growers.

The motion was lost and the Chairman's resolution favoring the calling of a State-wide meeting was carried by an overwhelming majority.

crops of deciduous fruits will be harvested.

The Valencia crop is light.

Green manure crops on Curlwaa were excellent and this to a lesser extent applied to Coomealla, where a number of growers did not sow seed this year. The crops were turned in prior to the first irrigation.

Recently, Mr. C. G. Savage, Chief Division of Horticulture, Department of Agriculture, visited the Areas and conferred with settlers' organisations.

Periodical visits were also paid by Mr. G. W. Beverley from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas.

(Further N.S.W. Notes on page 20.)



WHAT is the use of a man having a son (or a grandson) if he cannot have the joy of giving him a helping hand up the steps of life?

For a few pence a week a man can arrange with the A.M.P. that (whether he live or die) his small son (or grandson) shall have the money with which to go to the University when he is 17 or 18, or, if the lad should not go to the University, then, say, £300 when he reaches 21. That is a very practical kind of hand to give a lad. Aye, or a lass, for the same benefits may be arranged for girls as for boys.

Another way to give great help is to take out an A.M.P. whole life policy for, say, £1000 while the boy is young, when the annual premium is about half what it would be if the boy waited until he was, say, 25 to take it out himself. By the time the young man reaches manhood he will then have "an Estate" worth a considerable sum, and he will have some understanding of how men build up security. At that stage it will be well to let him take over the responsibility of paying the premium himself.

Ask the nearest A.M.P. office to send a man to talk this over with you, or send for a copy of "Life Assurance as a Family Asset" and learn of the different ways of giving a lad a helping hand. Write to-day. Time slips along. You never know what might happen. While the going's good make sure that the lad has the backing of the A.M.P. throughout his life

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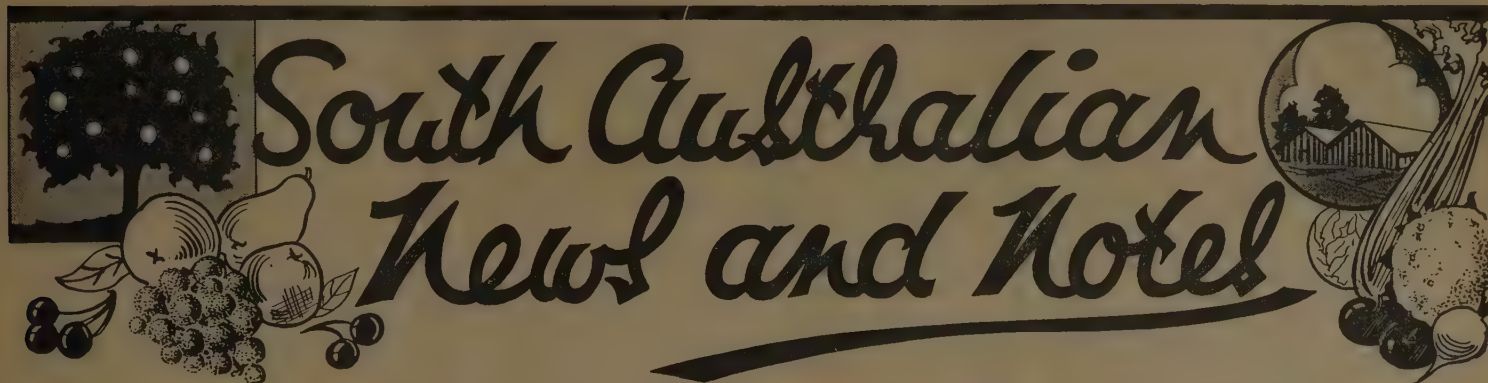
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Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association

S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Incorp.

Executive Meeting

The Executive Committee of the above Association met in the Board Room, Adelaide, on Friday, October 31, 1941, at 10.30 a.m.

The President (Mr. C. J. Pitt) presided over the meeting, which was attended by Messrs. L. B. Pfeiffer, A. O. Petersen, R. B. Pritchard, O. Essalbach, J. B. Randell, L. J. Wicks, R. A. Cramond, H. N. Wicks, W. J. Bishop, G. H. Schultz, H. B. Robson, C. Ridley, J. Turner.

The Chief Horticulturist for South Australia, Mr. A. G. Strickland, was also present.

Apologies received from Messrs. Packer, C. Stanford, L. G. Pethick, A. D. Chapman, N. T. Hobbs, H. W. Parsons, and J. D. Yeatman.

Minutes of September meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence: The following correspondence was read and dealt with.

1. Letter from the Premier of South Australia (Mr. T. Playford) expressing his appreciation of the Association's action in appointing him as its Patron, a position which he had pleasure in accepting. Received.

2. Letters (2) from the Women's War Service Council in connection with female labor in orchards, and suggesting a conference with the Association to discuss the matter.

Mr. L. B. Pfeiffer moved. "That a conference be arranged with the Women's War Service Council to discuss matters relative to female labor in orchards." Seconded Mr. A. O. Petersen. Carried.

Resolved Chairman, Secretary, L. B. Pfeiffer, L. G. Pethick, and W. J. Bishop be a Sub-Committee to meet the Women's War Service Council on Friday, November 7 next, at 2 p.m.

3. Adelaide City Council.

Letters (2) from the Town Clerk, advising that Association's letter re the speed of trams past the markets was receiving consideration by the Council. Received.

4. Statement from the Department of Agriculture setting out Codling Moth Lure Records at the Blackwood Experimental

Orchard on October 27. Received.

Mr. H. N. Wicks advised that members of the Marion Branch would be visiting his orchard on November 29 (Sat.), and he also extended an invitation to any Executive member who cared to attend.

Sectional and Branch Reports.

Fruitgrowers' Society: The Chairman (Mr. W. J. Bishop) reported on the annual general meeting of shareholders held September 26 last.

Cherry Section: Mr. W. J. Bishop advised that the annual general meeting of the Section was to be held that night at Ashton, and early forecast was for patchy crops owing to the shocking weather experienced during the setting period.

Tomato Section: The Secretary reported that the Tomato Section was progressing satisfactorily.

Citrus Section: Mr. O. Essalbach stated that the local Navel crop was practically finished. A good demand prevails for Common Oranges and prospects for Valencias were bright.

Celery Section: Mr. C. Ridley reported that the Celery Section was now finished.

Marion Branch: Mr. H. N. Western (Chairman) reported that last season's Almonds had been successfully placed. Keen interest is being shown in Branch activities, and new members are being enrolled.

Onkaparinga Branch: Mr. L. B. Pfeiffer reported that the Branch had displayed much interest in the offer of the Women's War Service Council to supply female labor as a means of offsetting the acute labor shortage now prevailing. This shortage has resulted in planting restrictions in Potatoes. Early planting of Potatoes has now commenced. A membership drive was shortly to be undertaken by the Branch.

Cudlee Creek: Mr. R. B. Pritchard reported that Apple stocks in the cool store were now low.

Financial Statement: The Secretary submitted the financial statement to date, together with accounts for payment. Resolved the accounts be paid.

Renovation of Premises: The Secretary submitted a quote he had obtained for the cleaning and painting of the Association premises. Mr. W. J. Bishop moved, "That the premises be renovated and the quote submitted be accepted." Seconded Mr. L. J. Wicks. Carried.

Insurance: Discussion took place as to certain classes of Garden Insurance, and it was resolved that the Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Society Ltd. investigate the matter with the General Assurance Co-op. and report back to the next Executive meeting.

Apple Acquisition: Mr. J. Turner moved, "That the Association recommend to the State Apple and Pear Marketing Board, that in future when prices are fixed the cost of the case be shown separately." Seconded Mr. W. J. Bishop. Carried.

Cherry Section

The annual general meeting of the Cherry Section was held in the Ashton Hall on Friday, October 31, 1941, at 8 p.m.

The Chairman, Mr. W. J. Bishop, presided over the meeting and welcomed the 25 growers who were present.

Officers for 1941-42 were elected as follows:—Chairman, Mr. W. J. Bishop; Deputy Chairman, Mr. R. A. Cramond; Committee, Messrs. W. Wye, E. Walker, L. Bungay, J. D. Yeatman, L. Gepp, F. Nicholls, Eric Greene, E. Collins, K. Caldicott, A. Lovibond; Auditor, Mr. A. G. Kimber; Delegates to Executive, Messrs. W. Wye, Jim Burdett, K. Caldicott, J. D. Yeatman.

Mr. Arthur Brooker, director of J. Brooker and Sons, at the invitation of the Chairman, delivered a short address to the meeting on the processing of Cherries. He illustrated his remarks with samples of Cherries at varying stages of processing. The remarks of Mr. Brooker were very illuminating, and were thoroughly appreciated by the growers present.

The Chairman reviewed the activities of last season, and Mr. R. G. Bartram, freight agent, advised on transport requirements.

The price for factory Cherries was set by the Committee, and

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adopted by the meeting, and Mr. W. J. Bishop was directed to proceed to Melbourne to finalise matter for the disposal of this season's crop.

A report from the manager of the Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Society Ltd. was submitted by the Secretary, other matters of general interest to Cherry growers were discussed, and the meeting concluded at 11.5 p.m.

Potato Growers' Branch

The annual meeting of the Onkaparinga Potato Growers' Branch of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Inc. was held at Woodside on September 24, when Mr. L. B. Pfeiffer presided over a fair attendance.

In his report, the President said that the Branch was now recognised as the one body that could speak on behalf of the Potato growers, and with a majority of growers as members it could do even more, especially in the difficult conditions which all primary producers found themselves or would have to face after the war. All growers should be members.

Difficulties were constantly cropping up and that of Prices Regulation No. 361 was the latest. This matter was discussed in the presence of Messrs. Stacey, M.H.R., and Shannon, M.P., and both expressed sur-

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prise at the unsavory position and the ridiculous nature of the Regulation. Mr. Stacey promised to take the matter up with the House with the object of having the Regulations either altered or abolished. It was pointed out that no fewer than 50 retailers had ceased handling Potatoes, as they showed a loss.

The Regulation (under the National Security Regulations to traders) set out that with the market price at about £5 per ton retailers could not charge more than 1/- for 17 lb., 6d. for 8½ lb., or 1d. for 1 lb., 1½d. for 2 lb., and 2½d. for 3 lb., and so on. It was claimed by the Association that at this price only 1/3 per cwt., gross profit, would be made, out of which the seller had to bear loss of 5d. in Government allowance for dirt and damaged tubers, 4½d. for turn of scales loss, 4d. at least for bags, and 7½d. for wages. Rent and other costs 1/9 in all. That the gross profit be fixed at 2/6 was being asked.

Mr. H. N. Wicks, Chairman of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Inc., spoke on the advantages of

the Association in marketing of produce and in other ways, and recommended membership.

Mr. E. Leihman reported on the Victorian Stabilisation Scheme now operating under Commonwealth Prices Regulation, wholesale and retail rates having been fixed for various grades of Potatoes. A maximum fee of 10/- per ton had been fixed for Potatoes entering Victoria from other States, and all Potatoes had to be sold in sealed containers. He also reported that the Seed Certificates Scheme in S.A. had been carried out this year, and two growers were successful, all seeds being sold. Their crop had been inspected during the growing season and found to comply with the standards set for purity and freedom from disease.

Office-bearers were elected as follows:—President, Mr. L. B. Pfeiffer; Secretary, Mr. B. Schapel; Committee, Messrs. E. W. Nitschke, Ed. Braendler, J. B. Randell, F. Daniel, and J. B. Kerber. Delegates to next meeting of the Fruitgrowers'

and Market Gardeners' Association, President and Acting Secretary. Representative on the Federal Potato Advisory Committee, Mr. C. J. Pitt.

TOMATO WILT.

In reply to an inquiry from Waikerie as to whether there is any certain way of safeguarding Tomato plants from Spotted Wilt, Mr. A. G. Strickland, M.Sc. (Chief Horticulturist), says that in view of the fact that Spotted Wilt is a virus disease conveyed from infected plants to healthy plants through the sucking of various insects such as thrips, there is no certain means of keeping bulk plantings clear of the disease where conditions and environment are favorable to large populations of sucking insects. Sucking insects may be kept under control by the use of various sprays and dusts, but seldom is control in such manner complete enough to check a certain amount of spread of the disease.

Furthermore, certain features of the disease are not clearly understood. For instance, in

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certain seasons the disease may be found more troublesome than in others. It is not possible to forecast whether the season will be bad or good.

Control of the disease generally consists in removing affected plants as soon as they are noted, as if they are not so removed they merely serve as foci for further spread of the disease. Plants having the disease may be identified quite early in their growth by their tendency to lag behind neighbouring plants and their failure to make normal growth. At this stage, the typical bronze marking of the disease is usually not present.

In connection with Spotted Wilt it should be realised that its host's range is tremendous, and that most garden plants and many weeds may be infected with the disease. Such plants would carry Spotted Wilt over from one season to another, and as soon as plantings are made it is only necessary for aphids and other sucking insects to be present in normal numbers for transmission to the new season's planting of Tomatoes to take place.

The grower who raises his own plants will be well advised to do so at some considerable distance from any garden plants, and to keep the vicinity clear of all kinds of weeds. After transplanting in the field, any plant failing to make normal growth should be removed and destroyed as soon as noted.

QUEENSLAND.

Applethorpe, October 25. — Crop prospects are as follows:—

Apples: Some varieties, including Gravenstein and Jonathans, generally light; other varieties good to heavy.

Grapes promise to be heavy, and vines making good growth. Only table varieties grown.

Plums: English varieties light; Jap. good to very heavy. Slight frost damage in some parts. The same applies to Peaches.

Pears: W.B.C. and Packhams good to heavy. Weather conditions have been very bad, scarcely any rain having fallen during past four months; fortunately the subsoil received a good soaking early in Winter.

Acquisition: Approved by some and condemned by others. At the request of the Deciduous Sectional Group Committee the C.O.D. is now taking an informal ballot on the question. The result should be interesting. Growers are eagerly waiting for the Joint Committee's report.—D. Pfrunder.

An Apology

OUR apology to the many people whom we had to disappoint last summer. As an explanation, we would like you to know that the popularity of the Electrolux Kerosene Operated Refrigerator was so great that the demand for them far exceeded the supply, and unfortunately many people could not obtain their model. Whilst Old Man Winter has been busy—so have we—replenishing our stocks, but as everyone who already owns one of these remarkable refrigerators is continually telling of their reliability, convenience and economy, you will realise that at the first sign of summer the demand will be greater than ever. Don't you be disappointed—ensure health protection for the kiddies and the whole family by ordering your model NOW.

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Apricot Manurial Trial at Light Pass, South Australia

(Continued from September "Fruit World.")

Pruning Weights.

The rapid response in tree growth to nitrogen application is shown in the pruning weight records of the first year of the test. The weight of prunings from trees in plots receiving sulphate of ammonia was increased significantly, and in following seasons the increase was accentuated. The figures for pruning weights are a reflection of the health and appearance of the trees themselves, the differences in the foliage color and annual growth between fertilized and untreated trees having been outstanding from the first season. The foliage of unmanured trees has been very poor and yellow in comparison with that of manured trees, and the growth has been very inferior. In fact, the reason for termination of the experiment was that permanent damage to the trees and loss to the grower would have resulted if manure had been further withheld from the control plots.

The variation in annual rainfall is reflected very clearly in the pruning weight records. In 1938-39 the trees suffered very severely from drought, the total annual rainfall being low, and, furthermore, distributed disadvantageously from the point of view of availability to the trees. Several trees in the unmanured plots had to be headed back in that season so that the prunings for this treatment contain framework wood and have not been compared with the weights of prunings from the manured trees of 1938-39, which were made up of annual growth only.

Sulphate of Ammonia versus Mixed Fertilizer.

The response to sulphate of ammonia indicates that lack of nitrogen was limiting the growth and cropping of the trees on which this experiment was carried out. There must be doubt as to whether the added response obtained from the use of mixed fertilizer was due to the phosphoric acid or to the potash fractions or both, as the change from super and ammonia to 2:2:1 fertilizer was made before any definite tendency could be discerned. However, the evidence is fairly strong that the increase may be credited mainly to the influence of the super. Comparative lack of phosphoric acid in the soils of this area has long been accepted as proven from the response of field crops to super manuring. On the other hand the soil is constituted with a good proportion of the clay fractions, an adequate supply of which is very rarely associated with lack of potassium. As yet, definite response of fruit trees to potash manuring has not been recorded in South Australia, and of all of our soil types this seems to be one of the most unlikely

on which such response would be expected. However, tests conducted on cover crops in orchards in this State have shown that phosphorous in the form of super is essential to obtain a good ground growth.

In view of the scarcity and the relative cost of potash fertilizers, it would not be warranted to apply them generally to Apricot trees, pending further evidence as to whether or not they are necessary, but added response may be anticipated from the use of mixed sulphate of ammonia and super manuring. Generally, it is recommended that the annual application be divided, the super and a small portion of the ammonium sulphate being applied in the Autumn, but the bulk of the sulphate of ammonia being reserved for Spring application.

Mode of Application.

In this experiment the manure was broadcast over slightly more than the spread of the tree just prior to the Spring ploughing. From work elsewhere it appears probable that in the case of manures applied for direct utilization by the tree, just prior to budburst is the most effective time to apply the dressing. For both sulphate of ammonia and super, utilization by the trees is assisted if the manures are applied in a deep furrow running under the edge of the branch spread or thereabouts—and for growers contemplating tree manuring this procedure is to be recommended. The operation may be easily carried out without disturbance to the routine of the orchard by applying the manure in the appropriate furrow bottom as ploughing is proceeding.

Orchard manuring has an additional function, however,

which must not be overlooked. That is the stimulation of ground growth, which is the chief source of replenishment of the stores of organic matter in the soil. In districts such as Light Pass, where, in any case, the rainfall is in many instances the chief factor limiting tree growth and productivity, there is some risk attached to the growing of a regular cover crop. However, every effort must be made to obtain a reasonable weed growth. Not only do the weeds themselves contribute to the soil organic matter intake, but they offer lodgement for the falling leaves, which otherwise get blown either right away or at least to the fence lines; furthermore, the soil is tied down, so that blow with the Autumn winds is diminished and the danger of serious soil loss during the Winter rains is greatly diminished. It is sound practice, therefore, to devote some of the annual fertilizer allotment to a dressing broadcast over the whole of the orchard in the Autumn; 2 cwt. of 45 per cent. super and $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of sulphate of ammonia per acre may advantageously be broadcast in Autumn. The remainder of the annual fertilizer allocation, say 2 cwt. to 3 cwt. of sulphate of ammonia, may be applied in the furrow in Spring for the direct benefit of the trees.

Seasonal Influence.

Over the six-year period of the experiment, drought and frost have definitely limited crop returns in three years. Light Pass lies in a particularly frost-subject area, and some Apricot blocks are known in which, failing provision for orchard heating, the crop has been destroyed for five seasons in succession. The block in which the manure trial was carried out, however, is regularly heated through the frost danger period in early Spring, and, except in the season 1936-37, in which an unusually heavy and late frost caused severe damage, this limiting factor was successfully combated. The 1936-37 harvest

figures, however, show clearly that all benefit from manure can be obliterated by frost damage, even in a season in which the rainfall is sufficient for the production of a good crop.

The effect of the frost in 1936 is reflected in the weight of Winter prunings removed in the following May (1937). With a light crop and good seasonal distribution of rainfall a very marked increase in the weight of prunings was recorded over the previous season's figures—this, despite the fact that during the previous season a greater rainfall was recorded.

It is this grower's practice to give the trees a light supplementary irrigation if it is required. The rate of application is, however, necessarily low, amounting to little more than 100 gall. per tree, and, although the trees may be saved from very prolonged and severe wilting, in two seasons since the commencement of the test, severe limitation of crop has resulted from moisture stress.

In the first season of the test (1934-35), at Stockwell, about one mile from the test block, only 15.59 in. of rain were recorded during 1934. The yields over all treatments that season were much lower than average, and the pruning weights were also abnormally low. In 1938 only 13.92 in. of rain were recorded, and in that season the harvest was not very greatly affected, even though the trees showed acute distress before picking; however, the effect of the dry Spring and early Summer (see Table I.) is shown in Winter pruning weights for 1939 and the relatively light crop of 1939-40.

From these results it is clear that drought, as in the case of frost, may preclude responses to fertilizer treatment; and, further, that the full effect of drought conditions may not always be evidenced until the following season.

(Continued on page 18.)



Spring time in the orchard.

Apricot Manurial Experiment.							
Value of Dried Fruit Calculated from a Drying Ratio 5:1				and Value £84 per ton.			
Season.	Treatment.			Gross Return from Manuring.			
	No Manure.	3lb. Sulphate of Ammonia per Tree.	7lb. Mixed Fertilizer per Tree.	Sulphate of Ammonia.	Mixed Fertilizer.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
1934-5	28 4 0	42 0 6	31 10 0	14 2 0	3 6 0		
1935-6	51 0 0	88 0 10	83 3 6	37 10 0	32 3 6		
1936-7	37 4 0	34 13 0	43 16 0	— 2 11 0	6 12 0		
1937-8	55 16 0	62 2 0	93 6 0	6 6 0	37 10 0		
1938-9	59 8 0	85 19 0	82 13 0	26 11 0	23 5 0		
1939-40	66 4 6	64 14 6	73 8 6	— 1 10 0	7 4 0		
Total over Six years				£80 8 0	£110 0 6		

Apricot Manurial Experiment.							
Yields of Fresh Fruit per Acre.							
Season.	Net Yield.			Increase in Yield from Manure.			Significant Differences.
	No Manure.	3lb. of Ammonia Sulphate per Tree.	7lb. of Mixed Fertilizer per Tree.	Ammonia Sulphate only.	Mixed Fertilizer.		
	t. c. l.	t. c. l.	t. c. l.	t. c. l.	t. c. l.		
1934-35	1 13 64	2 10 40	1 17 56	0 16 88	0 3 104*	Ammonia Sulphate only significantly higher than no manure at 5 per cent.	
1935-36	3 0 80	5 5 40	4 19 2	2 4 72	1 18 34	Both manures significantly higher than at 5 per cent., but no significant difference between them.	
1936-37	2 4 32	2 1 28	2 12 16	—0 3 4*	0 7 96*	No differences significant.	
1937-38	3 6 48	3 13 104	5 11 8	0 7 56*	2 4 72	Mixed fertilizer significantly higher at 1 per cent. No significant difference between no manure and sulphate of ammonia.	
1938-39	3 10 80	5 2 36	4 18 44	1 11 68	1 7 76	No difference between manures, both significantly higher than no manure at 5 per cent.	
1939-40	3 18 94	3 17 6 4	7 46	—0 1 88*	0 8 64*	No difference significant.	
Total				4 15 80	6 10 110		

*Differences not statistically significant.

Apricot Manurial Experiment.				
Mean Weight of Winter Prunings per Tree. lb.				
Year.	Treatment.			Significance of Differences.
	A. No Manure.	B. 3lb. of Ammonia Sulphate per Tree.	C. 7lb. of Mixed Fertilizer per Tree.	
1935-36	3.7	4.5	5.5	A from C significance 5 per cent.
1936-37	7.3	12.6	14.7	A and B, A and C, significance at 1 per cent. B and C significance at 5 per cent.
1937-38	6.2	12.8	11.5	B and C no significant difference. A and C, A and B, significance 1 per cent.
1938-39	4.7	6.1	5.5	Significance at 1 per cent. (A not included in analysis).
1939-40	4.7	8.5	10.7	A and B, A and C significance 1 per cent. B and C significance at 5 per cent.

Apricot Manurial Experiment.									
Rainfall at Stockwell.									
Month.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	Mean.
January	2.15	0.59	0.66	1.68	1.80	1.48	0.25	1.67	0.73
February	0.0	0.79	0.0	1.35	0.45	1.61	2.83	0.55	0.76
March	0.57	0.37	2.13	0.26	0.32	0.03	0.25	0.64	0.84
April	1.13	1.94	1.61	0.84	0.74	3.36	1.44	2.48	1.56
May	3.60	0.20	1.41	2.32	2.07	0.31	1.23	1.22	2.10
June	0.48	1.11	2.28	1.18	2.09	1.36	2.14	0.59	2.68
July	1.32	1.19	1.98	2.85	1.02	2.15	1.66	1.80	2.29
August	2.90	2.30	3.22	2.16	2.94	2.19	5.13	0.90	2.62
September	3.60	2.66	2.22	0.55	3.27	0.38	0.77	1.67	2.24
October	0.84	2.65	2.45	2.16	0.39	0.50	0.56	0.80	1.76
November	1.24	1.51	0.62	0.34	1.68	0.41	3.88	0.77	1.25
December	0.88	0.28	0.55	2.39	2.84	0.14	0.27	0.67	1.04
Total	18.71	15.59	19.13	18.08	19.61	13.92	20.41	13.76	19.87

New Zealand Fruitgrowers' Federation

Continuance of Acquisition Requested.

The 25th annual conference of the N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Federation was held recently at Wellington. This was the Jubilee Conference and a presentation was made to the President, Mr. T. C. Brash, this being his 17th year as President.

Delegates stood in silence in memory of the late Mr. Attwood, a pioneer worker for the Federation.

The half millionth case of Apples produced in the Mapua (Nelson) district this season was presented to the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Barclay) who opened the conference.

[This report is a summary of information published in "N.Z. Orchardist."]

Crop Control.

Mr. Clark moved:

"That this Conference ask the Government to continue the purchase of Apples and Pears for 1942 under similar conditions and on the same average nett price basis as for 1941, on the condition that should there be any appreciable rise in costs, the Government be asked to give consideration to making some allowance in this connection."

Mr. Forsyth seconded.

Mr. Paynter said the Pear position threatened to be serious. He had been considering destroying Pears. They were more expensive to produce. If the Pear grower in N.Z. did not have some price over the Apple grower, the supply of Pears in N.Z. would probably be jeopardised.

The President said the Government's attitude was that any increase had to be kept within the average, and any assistance to Pear growers would be taken from the Apple growers. It was understandably hard on the Pear growers in the meantime.

In reply to Mr. Sampson, Mr. Benzie said that Pears had been profitable to handle last season.

Mr. Sampson urged that steps be taken to protect the Pear grower. Some sections of the industry were being taxed to keep the Apple growers alive. If Pears cost more to produce, it was a straightout case for an approach to the Government.

After a discussion regarding the disabilities suffered by the Canterbury growers, the resolution was carried.

Varieties and Sizes.

Resolutions were carried:

"That all culinary varieties, including Gravensteins, be accepted during January, down to a count of 180."

"That size 216 in the major dessert varieties be accepted next season; also 252 in Cox's Orange."

"That late red varieties such as Dougherty and Yates be accepted down to count 234."

(Continued on page 22.)

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South Australian Fruit Marketing Association Inc.

Continuance of Acquisition Requested

The monthly meeting of the Executive of the S.A.F.M.A. was held at Adelaide on October 31.

Present: Messrs. J. B. Randall (Chairman), S. M. James, M. G. Basey, D. W. Hannaford, A. G. Strickland, J. A. Beare, C. L. Winzer, R. B. Pritchard, R. G. Hannaford, W. W. Miller, H. N. Wicks, M. J. Vickers, F. F. Redden, P. R. B. Searcy, L. J. Bishop, R. H. A. Lewis, and E. W. Mills (Secretary).

Women's Labor: Mr. C. L. Winzer drew attention to this matter. Members reported that the matter had been taken up in several districts where a census was being taken to see what labor was available.

Payment for Pears: Mr. F. F. Redden drew attention to anomaly in connection with the payment for Pears as a result of which growers who delivered fruit to canners were penalised, and it was agreed to request the State Acquisition Committee to take the matter up with the Apple and Pear Board, asking the Board to treat fancy grade Pears delivered to the factory in the same way as Pears delivered to the market.

Apple and Pear Acquisition Scheme: Mr. M. J. Vickers stated that certain organisations in the Eastern States were bringing strong pressure to bear on the Minister for Commerce with a view to obtaining the discontinuance of the Apple and Pear acquisition scheme, and he

thought it advisable that growers should take action to make their views known.

It was agreed that a telegram should be sent to the Minister for Commerce, stating that this Association reaffirms its previous decision in favor of continuance of Apple and Pear acquisition, and would welcome a prompt decision.

Subsequently, at the request of members of the South Australian Fruit Growers' and Market Gardeners' Association, it was decided it should be a joint telegram from the two Associations.

Mr. M. G. Basey presided over a meeting of the Growers' Sub-Committee of the S.A.F.M.A.

Mr. J. A. Beare, B.Agr.Sc., Department of Agriculture, gave an instructive address on experimental work being conducted by the Department. He dealt chiefly with Codling Moth control, and divided his subject into study of flights, spraying trials, bandaging and other methods of control. Charts and photographs were shown, and useful information was given in regard to spraying material, and results obtained in connection with bandages.

Other matters dealt with were leaf scorch, fruit drop control, control of scald in Granny Smith Apples.

At the November meeting Mr. D. W. Hannaford will speak on cold storage of fruit.

every orchard, is showing for a heavy to very heavy blossoming. The general expectation had been that in view of last year's heavy crop, combined with the fact that the fruit in very many gardens remained on the trees until it fell off, there would be very little, if any, bloom on the trees this Spring; however, in many cases there is quite a fair showing which, if it sets well should give from a one-third to half crop. The general opinion expressed by growers is that there is a lack of vigor showing which presages a likely poor setting of the bloom showing.

Pears in most varieties promise for a full to very heavy crop, this is in consonance with the very light crop of last season. Plums are also looking like a large crop in almost all varieties.

Those growers who cultivate a fair acreage of potatoes and tomatoes, are busy with the preparatory work in connection with the production of these crops, so far as the shortage of manpower enables this to be done.

The shortage of labor is making the carrying out of the necessary cultural operations increasingly difficult: in very few orchards has the full pruning programme been effected, in most instances it has been limited to the removal of injured and broken limbs consequent upon the very heavy crop carried last season. To a limited extent the assistance of women is being used, but there are of course very definite limitations to this owing to the arduousness of much of the work connected with horticultural pursuits.

Dairying is receiving increased attention in many cases, increases in the number of cows kept and the installation of milking machines being of common occurrence. Cheese factories are working at full pressure, and a considerable proportion of the district's production is utilised for the fresh milk supply of the city and metropolitan area. — J. B. Randall.

IF THEY ONLY KNEW.

America is claimed to be one of the best-fed nations in the world, yet more than 40 per cent. of the people suffer from some form of dietary deficiency, says "Colliers' Weekly." Experts say that if people knew what to buy to give best food value, the consumption of vegetables would increase 100 per cent., Tomatoes and citrus fruits by 70 per cent., and eggs 35, milk 20, and butter 15.

Surely this throws a great responsibility upon the industries concerned to educate the public upon the matter of food values. Fruit and vegetables are among the best and most accessible foods—yet few eat enough of these healthful products.

"BAY VIEW" PICKING BAG
for APPLES and CITRUS FRUITS.
Strong, Light, Convenient, Economical.
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118 Charles St., Launceston, Tas.
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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRUIT MARKETING ASSOCIATION INC.

November Meeting.

The November meetings of the Association will be held at the Secretary's Office, 83-4 Brookman Buildings, Grenfell-street, Adelaide, on Friday, November 28, 1941.

Growers' Sub-Committee commencing at 1.45 p.m.

Speaker: Mr. D. W. Hannaford.

Subject: "Cold Storage of Fruit."

Executive Committee Meeting will commence at 2.45 p.m.

E. WHITFIELD MILLS,
Secretary.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

A meeting of the S. Aust. State Board was held on October 27.

The notes by the Secretary (Mr. W. N. Twiss), on the Conference at Barmera on October 15 of Board representatives and packers, were received; also the recommendations of the Consultative Committee meeting of October 3, and reports from the Supervisor for the Irrigated Areas (Mr. H. R. Heming), and the Research Officer (Mr. H. K. Kemp, B.Agr.Sc.).

The packers' resolution recommending a 25 per cent. maximum moisture content for dried Apricots was noted, and it was decided to inform the packers that the Board wished to be associated with the special processing committee proposed by the Conference.

In connection with the restricting of further plantings of areas for dried vine fruit, it was decided to submit to the Government the memorandum prepared by the Consultative Committee, which sets out the views of the State Boards and the growers, and provides a uniform policy to be followed by the Governments of the States interested in the Murray Waters.

At the request of the Victorian Board it was agreed to prepare a case giving the Board's views regarding the proposal to bring dried Plums within the ambit of statutory control.

HARVESTING DIVERSIFIED CROPS.

Information is to hand from H. V. McKay Massey Harris Ltd., Sunshine, Vic., regarding their header-harvester, which, while originally designed for Wheat and Oats, has been improved and adapted for other crops. It is now used for Rice harvesting on the M.I.A.

Other seeds which it is stated are economically harvested are Wheat, Peas, Sudan Grass, Oats, Lupins, Lucerne, Barley, Ryegrass, Linseed, Rice, Canary Seed, Millet, Clover, Flax, etc.

South Australian Crop Prospects

Basket Range (31/10/41). — The weather experienced through the blossoming period seems to be the determining factor in the "set" of most fruits in the Hills District this year. Bounteous rains in January, followed by a mild Autumn, put the trees in great heart for the coming season. Bloom in most instances was healthy and prolific, but abnormal Spring conditions have made a general statement of crop prospects most difficult.

Cherries, the most important crop in our district, suffered the full brunt of the Wintry conditions while in bloom. Approximately 10 inches of rain, often accompanied by hail, fell in September. Twenty-five days out of the thirty were wet, and the effect on a crop where possibly all varieties are self-sterile was most marked. Trees that were favored with even a few hours' sunshine at the critical time have set a good crop. Others not so well treated are light.

To sum up, the early and late varieties are from medium to good, and mid-season sorts very patchy. All "set" fruit is already a wonderful sample, but the season will be late.

Nectarines are light to medium.

European Plums are generally good, but Japanese varieties have seemingly responded to the vagaries of the weather.

Apples—mainly colored varieties are grown here—promise better than the usual "off" year crop. Jonathans are medium, Statesman heavy, Democrats light, but it is as yet too early to forecast Romes, beyond saying that there is a lot of bloom and it has seldom looked stronger.

Most growers are well forward with their work—the late season has helped—but all and sundry are wondering where the extra labor is coming from to assist with the harvesting.—W. J. Bishop.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Gumeracha (25/10/41): Re crop prospects:—

Apples, comprising by far the larger proportion of fruit acreage in this area, are showing in the main from very light to medium so far as bloom is concerned; the one exception being Rome Beauty, which, in almost

Apricot Drying

(continued from page 9)

Period of Exposure: Under average summer day temperatures four to six hours' exposure to the sulphur fumes is considered sufficient to preserve the color without over-sulphuring. The practice of leaving the fruit in the sulphur chamber overnight is not advocated as it frequently results in over-sulphuring. If it is found essential to sulphur overnight the vent holes should be opened at the end of three hours.

Characteristics of Sulphured Fruit: Correctly sulphured fruit is usually characterised by a firm core, an easily detachable skin, with some exudation of juice into the cup, and a general evenness of color of the cut surface. The fruit is usually over-sulphured if the whole of the flesh has become softened, and if the cups have overflowed with juice.

DRIED FRUITS QUOTAS.

The Consultative Committee of State Dried Fruits Boards at a recent meeting recommended the adoption of the following revised home consumption quotas for the year 1941:—

Currants, 23 per cent. (increased from 20 per cent.).

Sultanas, 17 per cent. (increased from 14 per cent.).

Lexias, 39 per cent. (increased from 33 per cent.).

The present quotas for dried Apricots (90 per cent.) and dried Prunes, Peaches, Nectarines and Pears (each 100 per cent.) are unaltered.

The quotas represent the proportions of the production of the several varieties of dried fruits

which may be lawfully marketed within each State.

The N.S.W. Dried Fruits Board has recommended to the Minister for Agriculture and Forests that quotas be promulgated accordingly.

Similar recommendations have been made in the other producing States.

DRIED FRUITS.

Consistent Demand.

The Defence Department is a heavy buyer of Prunes — the Griffith Producers Co-op. Co. (N.S.W.) advises that a big percentage of their pack is requisitioned. In fact, there is a keen demand for all dried fruits, Apricots alone carrying an export quota and that only 10 per cent. While the war lasts there should be no dropping off of demand or reduction in prices.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Orange (29/10/41): What promised to be an exceptionally good season is now rather problematical. It snowed during the early blooming period, followed by a succession of frosts which may affect the ultimate setting of the fruit, more particularly in the lower portions of the district. Pears have already shed rather badly, especially Packhams, Apples are almost certain to do the same, on present indications I think the crop will be as under.

Cherries: Early Lyons, good; Napoleon and Florence. Medium to good. St. Margaret, Black Republican, good to heavy.

Plums: Angelina, Ponds' Seedling, Grand Duke and President, will all be light, with President showing the best.

Apples: Jonathan, medium; Delicious, light to medium; Rome Beauty, good; Granny Smith, medium; Democrat, heavy, these may yet shed rather badly.

Pears: Williams, B. Bosc and W. Coles, light; Packham's, light to medium.

Grapes: Black Muscat principally, and are showing well. — W. E. West.

Orange: Mr. W. B. Pascoe writes, under date 7/10/41:— Cherries and Plums promise very well. Granny Smiths are expected to be fair to good, whilst most other varieties of Apples are light to very light except on young trees.

Goulburn (29/10/41): The Apple crop appears to be about the same as last year's, but Pears will be lighter.

Stone fruits, particularly Apricots, are showing for heavy crops.

FORTHCOMING SHOWS.

Shows are scheduled for fruit districts as follow:—

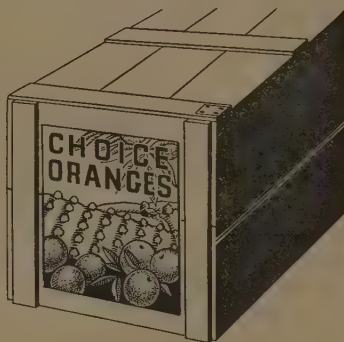
New South Wales:
Tumut, March 3 and 4, 1942.
Coff's Harbor, March 10 and 11, 1942.

Goulburn, March 19-21, 1942.
Camden, March 19-21, 1942.

Secretaries of the Show Committees in the several States are invited to send in particulars of the coming shows in their districts.

NEW METHOD OF CROP ESTIMATING.

An aerial survey (similar to that employed with success in California) was used by the Griffith (N.S.W.) Research Station to make an estimate of the Navel and Valencia crops of the growers who supply the Griffith Producers' Co-operative shed. It is considered that, after some experience, it will be possible to reduce errors to a very small percentage.



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Previous experience had convinced me that to be really efficient a grubbing machine should have ample power and ropes that will meet the heavy demands required of them. I found that shovel and axe work is very costly either by itself or in conjunction with a machine. The machine that offered these features with a host of others, was **THE "MONKEY" GRUBBER.**

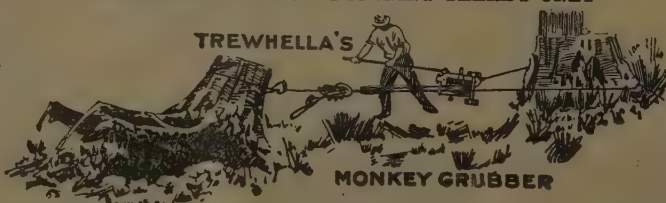
It gave me the power of 260 pairs of hands in a simple and compact form; the lever is short, so that I am able to stand firm-footed and get the full stroke. There are two speeds in the machine, as well as an automatic release that allows me to let off a strain, or as the machine will work in any position, it comes in for all jobs that would require a chain block. It is taken to the job on a pair of wheels like a barn truck, and is rigged for work in a few minutes. The ropes are in lengths that I find easy to handle, and each one is fitted with hook and loop couplings, so simple and absolutely IT for effectiveness. The makers have included a sturdy snatch block with a novel method of securing to the ropes, and also a fine type of firm gripping rope shortener. The latter makes it very easy to accommodate the lengths of rope to the tree or stump being pulled, and is quickly released from the rope. The combination of so many time and labor saving features makes the "Monkey" Grubber a superior grubbing outfit.

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THE MARKET GROWER

Celery Culture

SOIL AND WATER SUPPLY — RAISING THE SEEDLINGS —
CULTURAL CONDITIONS — VARIETIES — BLANCHING.

HINTS on the cultivation of celery were recently given by Mr. C. J. Kershaw, Agricultural Officer, Tasmanian Dept. of Agriculture (in Tasmanian Journal of Agriculture) thus:—

Tasmania possesses soil and climatic conditions admirably suited to its growth, and for this reason this so-called luxury vegetable can be produced at a minimum cost.

The celery plant is one which demands the richest of soils and an abundant water supply. The soil must be very rich in organic matter.

Raising the Seedlings.

Successive sowings should be made, commencing in mid-September and extending to the end of November. The seed is extremely small and a shy germinator, and it will be found that the seedlings make very little growth during the first month after germination has taken place. During this time constant care must be exercised to protect them from injury by frost and sun-scald.

The seed-bed should be prepared by turning over an open-textured soil, working in a small amount of superphosphate and heavy dressings of decayed organic matter. This should be done during the Winter months, so that by sowing time the seed-bed can be rendered to a very fine tilth. Just prior to sowing, the soil requires to be somewhat compacted, in order to bring the moisture to the surface. The surface should be levelled and the seed planted in shallow furrows. The latter should not be more than $\frac{1}{4}$ in. deep and spaced 6 in. apart. They can be made equidistantly by the use of a sawn board 6 in. in width and 3 ft. 6 in. in length, or whatever the width of the

seed-bed may be. By pressing one edge of the board into the soil and then turning it over on to its other edge, the spacing will be correct. The seed is sown thinly and then covered by dragging the edge of the planting board across the bed. Finally, the bed is watered thoroughly with a fine spray and then mulched with a thin layer of rotted manure. Water should be applied each morning if the weather is fine to assure a supply of moisture in the surface soil.

Seed Production and Varieties.

The leading South Australian growers have for many years been selecting the best plants of their respective crops for the purpose of seed production. By this system they have selected and fixed varieties most eminently suited to their own conditions.

The Long Export White is the variety most widely grown in Adelaide. It is non-hearting, with exceptionally long, clear stems which blanch to a fine golden cream color. Its best feature is its outstanding disease resistance.

Golden Self Blanching is an American hearting variety which has relatively short thick stems. The heavy outer leaves give enough protection, with slight soil tilling, to give perfect blanching. This celery is of outstanding quality, but is very susceptible to disease.

Golden Plume is very similar to the last named, but is somewhat shorter in the stem.

There are many more varieties in cultivation, but the three listed are the best for our conditions. Although the Export White variety is of inferior quality when compared with Golden Self Blanching and Golden Plume, it is the type recom-

mended to prospective growers, as the fashion of the Australian market has been set by the long stemmed bunches.

Root Trimming.

This is a practice carried out by almost all commercial growers throughout the world. The operation is done in the seedling stage when the plants are about $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. in height, and consists of cutting the tap root by forcing a sharp-edged long-bladed knife under the rows of plants at a depth of 2 in. Subsequent to this operation the plants develop masses of strong fibrous feeding roots, with the result that when transplanted to the open field they suffer very little, if any, check. It is most important to water the plants heavily immediately after root trimming.

Field Preparation.

The soil must receive deep and early preparation, and the incorporation of as much organic matter as possible. Many of our peaty reclaimed swamp lands are sufficiently rich for the growing of the crop without the addition of further organic matter. However, it is wise to apply all available supplies of farmyard manure to the land, as by so doing the soil is not only enriched but its water-holding capacity is greatly increased. To rid the soil of weeds, the initial ploughing should be carried out during the Winter and the land then surface worked regularly until within a month before planting, when it should be reploughed lightly and worked down to a fine tilth.

Transplanting.

The seedlings are ready to set out when approximately 5 in. high. At this stage they will have made sturdy root and stem growth and will transplant without loss. The plants should be dug out so that as much root as possible is lifted with them.

The seedlings are set out in rows spaced 3 ft. apart, leaving 6 in. to 8 in. between the plants in the rows. The best procedure is to strike out the drills (3 ft. apart) and then broadcast 4 cwt. superphosphate and 2 cwt. sulphate of ammonia per acre along the furrows. The fertilizer is

mixed with the soil by drawing along each furrow a one-horse scuffler which partly fills in the drill, leaving a slightly depressed surface in which to plant.

Crop Management.

Throughout the growing period the crop must be forced. Concentrated attention should not be alternated with neglect, as lack of uniformity in growing conditions is liable to cause serious defects such as hollow stem, pithiness, excessive fibre and coarseness.

Provided the ground is well drained, it is almost impossible to over-water celery during fine weather. The surface soil must not be allowed to become saturated over a long period, however, for this encourages disease. Where the land has a gentle slope, flooding by means of the furrow is to be preferred to overhead irrigation. The ideal practice is to make a water furrow right down the rows close to the plants in the early stages of growth. As the crop develops the furrow is remade until it is in the middle of the land between the rows of plants. Single row planting and the furrow method of watering allow the grower to spread and work fertilizer into the soil more effectively.

Cultivation of the crop must at all times be such as to destroy weeds and keep the land in good condition for the retention of fertilizer and water. When the plants are small, deep cultivation is required, but as growth proceeds working should become shallower.

As already implied, celery is a very gross feeder. In addition to heavy initial applications of fertilizer, it is essential to apply side dressings of superphosphate and sulphate of ammonia at regular intervals. The amount and frequency of such applications depend entirely on the growth and progress of the crop.

Blanching the Crop.

Grown under ideal conditions, the crop takes approximately five months from sowing to reach maturity. Three weeks prior to this it should be put through the finishing-off stage—blanching—and finally forced for the production of high quality long centre stems. Blanching is done

When export is once again possible —

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FRESH FRUIT

CANNED FRUIT — JAM — HONEY — PULPED FRUIT

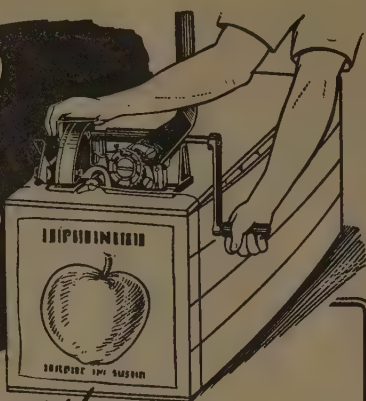
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P. S. MACDERMOTT, General Secretary,
215a Thomas St., Haymarket, Sydney.

by excluding the sun from the plants, thus preventing the formation of chlorophyll (the green coloring matter) in the plant cells.

The most practical manner of effecting the operation is to batten together (weatherboard fashion) hardwood boards, so that the total width corresponds with the height of the stems. The blanch-boards are then placed vertically on either side of each row and held close to the plants by either a wire clip across the top, or by short stakes driven in on the outside of the boards.

Harvesting and Marketing.

It will be found that after a fortnight has elapsed the celery

will be properly blanched. The boards are then released and the plants are cut below the crown, leaving the roots in the ground. The manner in which the product is prepared, making the sample as attractive as possible to buyers, is obviously an important matter. The outer leaf stalks should be pared off, leaving the better quality heart portion, and the butts neatly trimmed with a sharp knife.

The standard crate measures 27 in. x 12 in. x 12 in. A crate of greater length than this is, however, used for the longer bunches of celery. The dimensions of this crate are 30 in. x 12 in. x 12 in. The bunches are packed with butts to either end.

NEW ZEALAND FRUITGROWERS' FEDERATION—(Contd. from page 18).

"That Dougherty, size 234, extra fancy and fancy grades, be accepted by the Internal Marketing Division."

Proposals for 1942.

Mr. W. Benzies, of the Internal Marketing Division, said the present basis of marketing had stood the test of two seasons. Particulars up to July, 1941, were:

1941.	Received by Dept. (Cases)	Marketed. (Cases)
Jan. . .	59,000	51,000
Feb. . .	220,000	143,000
Mar. . .	671,000	338,000
April . .	797,000	443,000
May . .	550,000	438,000
June . .	175,000	245,000
July . .	88,000	192,000

There was some opposition, but it was pointed out that many other kinds of goods were sold on Sundays. Many people preferred Apples to chocolates. The resolution was carried.

Apple Juice Industry.

Resolutions were carried:

"That the Government be urged to encourage the establishment of Apple juice factories in Hawkes Bay and Nelson."

"With a view to using much greater quantities of culled Apples in the manufacture of Apple juice, the Government be urged either to assist the present manufacturer to produce more juice or take over the manufacture themselves."

Federation's Policy.

Up to July this year the quantity marketed exceeded the quantity marketed in the whole 12 months of 1940. In the peak period of six weeks 1,205,000 cases of Apples were received and 111,000 cases marketed per week. "If this could be kept up," said Mr. Benzies, "there would be no question of a surplus."

The speaker thought there was a possibility of giving a bonus on early varieties and cool store pickings, but it must be within the 5/3 average.

Commission to Brokers.

Mr. Clark moved:

"That the Government establish a minimum number of wholesale depots and reduce commission charges, etc., to 5 per cent. or less."

In seconding, Mr. Forsyth said it was absurd for brokers' commission to remain as before when they were able to cut their clerical, canvassing and other costs. The commission could well be 5 per cent.

The resolution was lost by a narrow margin.

Sales on Sundays.

Mr. Mason moved, Mr. Rodger seconded:

"That the N.Z. Fruitgrowers' Federation use every endeavor to have the licensing of fruit shops for Sunday sales of fruit."

Office-bearers.

Mr. T. C. Brash was re-elected President and Mr. W. J. Rodger, Vice-President.

**Producers'
Co-operative
Distributing
Society Ltd.**

Are now paying a Bonus
of 15% on all Commis-
sions charged to regular
clients of the Fruit &
Vegetable Section for
year ending Sept., 1938

Send Your Consignments

TO US

MELBOURNE & SYDNEY.

Citrus Field Day at Merbein, Victoria

Spraying — Manuring — Rootstocks

FOR THE PURPOSE of telling growers the results of citrus investigations in Mildura district, a field day was held on Friday morning, September 26, at Captain D. B. Halhed's property, Merbein. The Mildura Executive of the V.C.C.A. arranged this field day in conjunction with officers of the Horticultural Division, and the Science Branch of the Department of Agriculture. There were visitors from Curlew, Coomealla, and the river settlements of Sth. Aust.

Mr. J. L. Provan, Senior Horticultural Instructor, briefly outlined the research work being carried out on cultural problems by Mr. C. E. Cole, Horticultural Research Officer. The experiments comprised four manurial trials situated at Merbein, Irymple, Long Lake and Wangaratta, and rootstock investigations situated at Irymple and Kangaroo Lake. In connection with the "June drop" of Grapefruit, investigations carried out in the Mildura district had shown that the same sprays which were effective in preventing pre-harvest drop of Apples, did not prevent the June "drop" of Grapefruit, and the next stage in this investigation would be the preservation of fallen fruit by waxing and other treatments.

Storage investigations had been commenced and carried out by the Department of Agriculture for a number of years, and these were now being conducted conjointly with the C.S. and I.R.

This year, pruning experiments were commenced. A variability trial had been made at Red Cliffs on Mr. H. J. Hand's property, preparatory to laying out further details of the experiment. Work carried out by the Research Officers had shown that artificial coloring of Washington Navels can be satisfactorily accomplished by using a quarter of the concentration of ethylene as that used in the past. Investigations were proceeding on this subject to find substitutes and also to determine optimum humidity and temperature for coloring.

Minor Element Deficiencies.

The question of minor elements had been given some prominence lately, and growers were very anxious that any deficiencies of these substances should be quickly remedied. The first tests in this district were made in 1933, but since then improvements in technique had been evolved and the work was being continued particularly manganese, zinc and iron injections and spray applications of zinc.

Zinc is unquestionably one of the outstanding minor element

deficiencies occurring in citrus in Victoria.

The symptoms of this deficiency — Mottle Leaf and Little Leaf—were well known to growers and either of two sprays was available to correct this condition—zinc oxide applied at the rate of 3 lb. per 100 gallons, or a zinc-lime spray—10 lb. of zinc sulphate, 5 lb. of freshly slaked lime and 100 gallons of water. The spray should be applied at blossoming time or just prior to a growth period, depending upon the variety to be sprayed. Navel trees could be sprayed, in September or October, after harvest, and Valencia trees in January or February. If necessary, this zinc spray could be combined with the white oil sprays used for the control of Red Scale.

Rootstock Experiment.

Mr. Provan explained briefly the details of the layout of the root-stock experiment at Irymple for the benefit of those growers who were not familiar with it. Trees in this experiment are now seven years old, and the results are becoming more interesting. The crop this year had been very light in common with other groves throughout the district. The results from this rootstock trial should be considered only as a progress report. The three rootstocks in this trial are Sweet Orange, Sour Orange and Rough Lemon, and the scion varieties are Washington Navel and Valencia Late Oranges. The effect of rootstock on the growth of the trees has been very marked. The size of the tree when measured by trunk circumference, average height and average top-width is largest where the variety is on Sweet Orange rootstock, and smallest on Sour Orange rootstock. It should not be thought that the Sour Orange has a dwarfing effect, because actually the Sour Orange trees are well grown for their age.

Mr. Provan reminded growers that during the first and second years, the trees on rough Lemon grew more rapidly than on the other two rootstocks, but gradually trees on Sweet Orange rootstock caught up to, and then passed, those on Rough Lemon rootstock.

Effect of Rootstock on Yield.

Yield results have shown that the Washington Navel on Rough Lemon had produced an average of about three cases of fruit per tree per annum in their five, six and seven years. Sweet Orange had produced slightly less and Sour Orange about 2½ cases per tree.

Valencia Late Oranges on similar rootstocks over a two-year period (the 1941 crop was



A well kept Citrus grove.

not yet harvested), have shown that Sweet Orange rootstock produced slightly more fruit than Rough Lemon and Sour Orange root-stock. An interesting observation concerning the yield of trees on the different rootstocks was that trees on Sweet Orange produced the heaviest crop in 1940 and the lightest crop in 1941. In the light crop year (1941) the crop of Washington Navels on Sour Orange root-stock almost equalled that of the trees on Rough Lemon root-stock.

Effect of Rootstock on Quality.

The effect of rootstock on the quality of the fruit was being very carefully watched. The juice content of the fruit on all stocks was particularly good, and averaged about 50 per cent. of the total weight of the fruit. Percentage weight of rind showed that fruit from Sweet Orange and Sour Orange rootstocks were approximately equal in this respect, and both were slightly less than the fruit on Rough Lemon, but it is not certain that the difference is yet significant. There was no significant difference in the percentage weight of rag in fruit from trees on each of the three rootstocks.

Acidity as measured in c.c. soda solution showed that the fruit from the Rough Lemon rootstock was less acid than that from Sweet Orange and Sour Orange rootstocks. An interesting seasonal effect was that on the average, in 1941, Washington Navels from each stock were less acid by an amount equivalent to 2.8 c.c. of soda, than in 1940.

The total soluble solids, as measured in degrees Brix., showed that fruit from the Rough Lemon rootstock has been slightly lower than that from Sour Orange and Sweet Orange in each of the past four years.

Citrus Fertilizer Trial.

The fertilizer trial on Captain Halhed's property was commenced in 1936, and the layout comprised five treatments, replicated five times, with five-tree plots. Suitable guard rows were provided and it was expected to prove 20 per cent. dif-

ferences. The trees are Washington Navel Oranges on rough Lemon rootstock and are now 29 years old. They are planted on a skewed square, 24 ft. x 24 ft.

The original treatments comprised Nil plots, Nitrogen plots, and Nitrogen combined with Phosphorus and Potash, and complete fertilizer — nitrogen, potash and phosphate. The applications were 8 lb. per tree of sulphate of ammonia, 8 lb. of superphosphate and 4 lb. per tree of sulphate of potash.

Yield.

In 1938, the decline in the health of the trees in the Nil plots was so marked that the fertiliser treatments were modified so that nitrogen would be applied to all trees. The amounts of sulphate of ammonia applied, varied—6, 8 and 12 lb. per tree respectively being used. The results of the effect of the omission of nitrogen had been placed before the growers previously. The average yield of all trees receiving the 8 lb. of sulphate of ammonia in 1938 was 445 lb. weight of fruit, which was 128 lb. higher than the average of the Nil trees. This was equivalent to an increased yield of 246 bushels per acre, or more than four times the cost of the fertilizer applied during the three years necessary to produce the difference. Up to 1938, fertilizer applications had caused no differences in the quality of the fruit. Since 1938, the yield data from the various plots has proved that 12 lb. per tree of sulphate of ammonia is no better than 8 lb. Potash applications have given no response since the experiment commenced, and so far, apart from the beneficial effect on cover crops, phosphoric acid in the form of superphosphate, has had no effect on yield or quality of the fruit.

It was interesting to note this year, that although the numbers of fruits per tree were less, the weight of fruit per tree was slightly greater than in 1940 (a record year) due to the increased size of individual fruits. Fertilizers appear to have little effect on size of fruit in heavy crop years, and they may effect size of fruit in light crop years.

Composition of Fruit.

Fertilizers have only slightly affected the composition of the fruit, and probably the results are commercially unimportant. Applications of superphosphate resulted in a slight decrease in the acidity of the fruit. It must be pointed out, however, that this slight decrease occurred in a grove in which the soil is already high in phosphates compared with virgin soil types of a similar nature. The Department is considering applications of phosphates to citrus groves which produce fruit with higher acidity in order to determine whether phosphoric acid has any marked influence in this direction. There was also a slight decrease in juice which could be attributed to phosphate application. Nitrogen applications have decreased acidity slightly, but this may be related to increase in yield.

Potash has had no effect on the composition of fruit. It may be expected that in this sunny climate and with a soil already so high in potash, that this fertilizer will have very little effect.

:: :: ::

A new type of beetle-back disc attachment for tilling the soil area under the branches created much interest.

:: :: ::

The field day was continued in the afternoon at Red Cliffs on the citrus groves of Mr. L. Wilkinson and Mr. Scamangas.

On these properties, Mr. Johnston, Assistant Entomologist, dealt with the results of the Red

Scale investigations being carried out by him in the district.

Mr. Wadeson, Senior Orchard Inspector, addressed the growers assembled in the afternoon at Wilkinson's grove on the necessity for a more intensive campaign for the control of Red Scale in the district, and urged growers to co-operate with local organisations and the Department of Agriculture, in reducing the damage caused by this pest to the citrus groves in the district. The Department intended to carry out a very active campaign with this point in view in the approaching season.

SOOTY MOULD IN CITRUS TREES.

In reply to the inquiry from the Maltese Women's Branch of the Agricultural Bureau, Mr. N. R. Quinn (Assistant Horticultural Adviser) states in S.A. Jour. of Agric., that the black sooty substance on the fruit and foliage of the Lemon tree is caused by either black or brown scale. These scale insects may be controlled by spraying the whole of the tree during Summer with a white spraying oil. Most of the petrol and oil companies stock the material.

The green citrus aphid causes the leaves to curl up. This pest usually attacks the young growing tips of laterals, sucking the sap from them and causing the young leaves to become distorted. The distortion is much more noticeable as the leaves mature. The pest may be controlled by

spraying with nicotine sulphate used as one part in 800 parts of water. The nicotine sulphate and white oil may be mixed together and applied as a dual purpose spray.

MANURING CITRUS TREES.

Mr. A. G. Strickland, M.Sc. (Chief Horticulturist) has advised a correspondent at Lameroo, who asked for information on the manuring of citrus trees, that during the first year or two young citrus trees under most circumstances do not require any artificial fertilizers.

Soil of a sandy nature is greatly improved by incorporating well rotted vegetable matter in it. When this organic matter had decomposed in the soil it forms valuable plant foods and also improves the water-holding capacity of the soil. The young trees should be mulched with a dressing of stable manure during early Spring. The mulch should consist of well rotted stable manure spread over the soil under the tree about 2 in. thick and extending approximately 2 ft. out from the trunk of the tree all around. The following Winter this mulch is dug into the soil.

The young trees will require watering approximately every three weeks if the Summer proves to be dry. The water should be applied in a ring around the tree approximately 2 ft. out from the trunk. This irrigation ring may be filled with the mulch. If this procedure is adopted it will not be

necessary to cultivate the wetted surface of the soil. Each tree should receive approximately 10 to 15 gallons of water at each watering.

After the trees are two years old and the growth does not appear to be satisfactory, each tree should receive about 2 lb. of sulphate of ammonia during early September. The fertilizer should be placed in the irrigation ring and the ring filled with water to dissolve the manure. Old bones are practically valueless as manure for plants because they take so long to decompose in the soil. The bones in bone manure have to be treated in such a manner as to make them readily available as a plant food.

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Apple, Pear, Quince Trees and vines should respond to applications of 2:2:1 (2 parts sulphate of ammonia, 2 parts super., 1 part potash). This mixture may be bought ready mixed. Large trees should receive 6 lb. to 7 lb., vines 2 lb. to 3 lb. of the mixture in early Spring. Mulching with stable manure will also prove to be beneficial.—S.A. Jour. of Agric.

A.W.U.—FRUITGROWERS' AWARD.

The weekly rates payable under (1), (2), (3) and (4) of Table A will for the next quarter commencing November 1, 1941, be as follows (rates for employees engaged by the hour are shown in brackets):—(1) In those parts of New South Wales and in Victoria situated within 20 miles from the Chief Post Office at Mildura, including the Districts of Mildura, Irymple, Merbein, Redcliffs, Wentworth and Curlwaa, in the Renmark and other irrigation settlements in South Australia situated on or near the River Murray and in the Murrumbidgee Districts, New South Wales, including Leeton: (a) Adult males, £4/7/- (1/10 $\frac{1}{2}$); (b) Females of 18 years of age or more, £2/18/- (1/3).

(2) In all other parts of New South Wales: (a) Adult males, £4/6/- (1/10 $\frac{1}{2}$); (b) Females of 18 years of age or more, £2/17/- (1/2 $\frac{1}{2}$).

(3) In all other parts of Victoria: (a) Adult males, £4/5/- (1/10 $\frac{1}{2}$); (b) Females of 18 years of age or more, £2/16/- (1/2 $\frac{1}{2}$).

(4) In all other parts of South Australia: (a) Adult males, £4/3/- (1/9 $\frac{1}{2}$); (b) Females of 18 years of age or more, £2/15/- (1/2 $\frac{1}{2}$).

The special rates payable under sub-clause (b) of Table B are as follows:—

1. Employees engaged fumigating citrus trees, 2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per hour. Prune Dehydrators — Young District, N.S.W.: 2. Leading hand on grader, 2/- per hour. 3. Grader hands, 1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ per hour. 4. Leading hand drier, 2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$ per hour. 5. General hands, 1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ per hour. Cherry Picking: 6. Per basket of 60 lbs., 2/9 per hour.



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Sydney Fruit Trade Dinner

Interesting Speeches :: Presentation to Mr. Musgrove

INTERESTING speeches on a variety of subjects of particular interest to the fruit and vegetable industries, and a presentation to Mr. Walter Musgrove, ex-President of the Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, were features of the annual dinner of the Sydney trade, held at the Australia Hotel, Sydney, on October 18.

Mr. C. R. Walker (President) was Chairman of the function, which was arranged by the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, in association with the Fruit Merchants' Sectional Committee of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. A. C. Ward capably proposed "Parliament," to which Mr. J. J. Cahill, Minister for Works, responded.

Mr. J. L. Geraghty, M.L.A., congratulated the Chamber on its successful operations.

Rights of Business.

Mr. O. D. A. Oberg (Chamber of Commerce), proposing the Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, said he realised that the dinner had been arranged by a most important section of the State's industries. Anybody who thought that an era of rabid individualism could continue was foolish in the extreme. He (the speaker) could foresee a period of co-operation to overcome the dangers which confronted the country.

Big Turnover.

Mr. H. A. Stevenson, Vice-President of the Fruitgrowers' Federation, and Superintendent of the N.S.W. Committee of the Apple and Pear Board, responded in the absence of the President of the Federation (Mr. F. B. Mackenzie). The actual production of fruit and vegetables in N.S.W. was of a value of £4,000,000 annually. Recently

there had been a lot of criticism in the papers of certain matters in the markets. He felt that as long as the market value of their produce was returned to the grower, it would be very difficult to alter existing selling methods.

Overhaul of Selling Methods.

Remarking that his Association was most interested in certain matters taking place in the city markets, Mr. A. A. Watson, President of the Vegetable Growers' Association, said his concern largely rested in the elimination of all unnecessary stages of selling. If a stage could be dispensed with, his organisation believed that it should be eliminated. Great changes were pending in selling methods. There was a possibility of the early establishment of suburban retail markets similar to those operating in Melbourne.

Mr. A. Tasker, President Market Gardeners' Association, claimed that fruit and vegetables were never as dear to consumer as were foodstuffs produced under award wage conditions.

Land Workers' Worries.

Dr. R. J. Noble, Under-Secretary, Department of Agriculture, stressed the difficulties facing the man on the land—the hazards of drought, pests, and even regulations. His Department was vitally concerned with all these subjects.

Mr. Y. Jesser, of Queensland, a member of the Commonwealth Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, said that the combined efforts of everybody earning a livelihood from the fruit industry were needed to pull it through.

Mr. C. R. Walker, President of the Chamber, said that the ramifications of the industry were very wide. He was willing to pledge the assistance of the fruit and vegetable industry in the struggle for existence in which the nation was engaged.

Saying he had been connected with the trade for 26 years, Mr. E. Cooke, a member of the Vegetable Section of the Chamber, added that the proposed retail markets had never proved a success in Sydney.

Mr. T. Power, President Fruiterers' and Greengrocers' Association, declared that his Association was unanimous that if their members had shorter working hours they would be

able to give the public cheaper fruit and vegetables, and also be able to compete with the foreign element.

Presentation.

Prior to Mr. W. Musgrove proposing "Our Guests," to which brief responses were made by Mr. T. J. Parker and Mr. A. Hing (Chinese Chamber of Commerce), the company, at the instance of Mr. Les Jenkins, drank the health of the ex-President, who was then handed a crystal table lamp as a mark of esteem in which he was held by members of the trade.

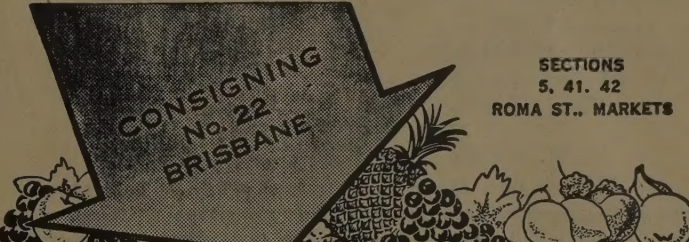
Mr. Musgrove said it had always been a pleasure to do what he could for the industry, and had always done it willingly.

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MARKET REPORTS NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (22/10/41): The following prices for fruit at the City Municipal Markets are supplied by the State Marketing Bureau of N.S.W.:—

The principal supplies of Apples were from Tasmania and consisted mainly of Democrat, Crofton and Sturmer. Demand for these varieties was only moderate, and values had an easier tendency. Some of the Sturmers did not open up in

satisfactory condition, and were difficult to clear. The high prices ruling for local G. Smiths early in the period were not maintained, although the market was only lightly stocked. Choice Del. continued to sell at fairly high rates, but fruit which

had reached an over-mature stage was sold cheaply.

Vic. Josephines were the principal variety of Pears on offer.

Demand for Val. Oranges was chiefly for large sizes, counts to 150 bushel selling well, and rates were slightly firmer. Small sizes were slow to clear. Consignments of Navel Oranges were light. The large sized fruit sold satisfactorily at up to 12/- bush.

Supplies of Grapefruit were lighter and good quality packs were in demand—particularly the Wheeny variety—at higher rates.

A few quarter cases of Cherries from the Lakesland district were received and realised to 20/- case.

Arrivals of Pineapples were lighter, and prices were firmer, best packs realising to 12/- case.

A fair proportion of the Bananas coming forward from the North Coast lacked development, and values were affected in consequence. Choice, well filled fruit was relatively scarce and commanded prices above ruling rates.

Prices: — Apples: Local G. Smith, 14/- to 16/-; Del., 14/- to 18/- (few higher); Interstate Yates, 8/- to 11/-; Sturmer, 6/- to 8/-; Demo., 8/- to 10/-; Crofton, 7/- to 11/- (few dearer). Pears: Jos. (Interstate), 10/- to 15/- (few higher) case.

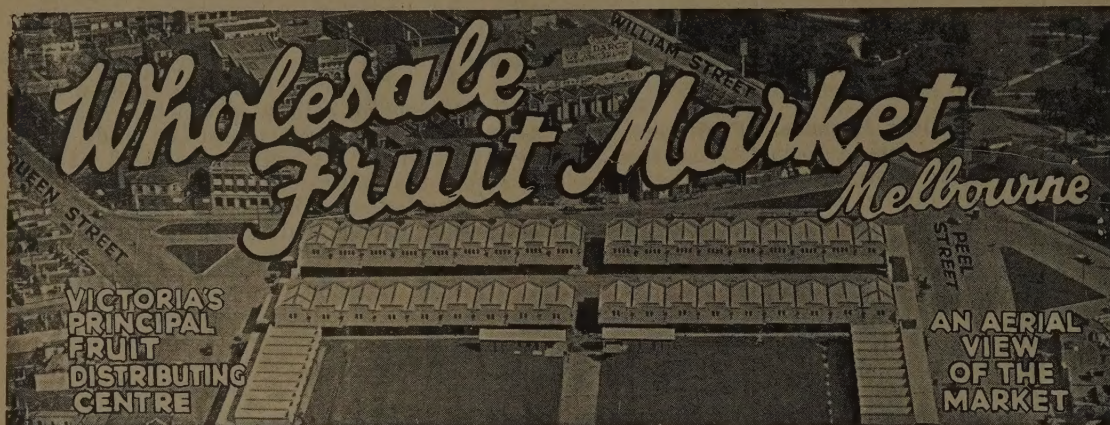
Bananas: Nines and eights, 14/- to 16/-; Sevens, 11/- to 13/-; Sixes, 7/- to 10/- (few specials each grade higher and ripe and inferior lower). Papaws: 6/- to 10/- (few dearer). Pineapples: 7/- to 12/- trop. case.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (4/11/41): Apples, eating, 10/- to 16/-, few higher; do., cooking, 9/- to 14/-, few higher; Cherries, 20/- to 22/- half-case, few special higher; Oranges, Navel, 10/- to 20/-, few specially selected higher, Commons 9/- to 16/-, few higher; Lemons, average standard, 4/- to 6/-, good standards to 7/-, selected to 8/-, few special higher; Gooseberries, green, 4/- to 4/6 doz. lb.; Strawberries, 1/3 to 2/- punnet; Pears, dessert, Packhams, 10/- to 16/-; do., culinary, 8/- to 14/-; Papaws, Qld., 10/- to 12/- double case, inferior lower; Bananas, Qld., green, 6's 8/- to 12/, 7's 12/- to 14/-, 8's and 9's 14/- to 16/- double case, few higher; Pineapples, Queensland, 8/- to 12/- double case, few higher; Passionfruit, 12/ to 22/- half case, few higher.

Oranges: Navel, Coastal, 6/- to 12/-; Irrig. Area, 8/- to 12/-; Val., Coastal, 3/- to 8/- (specials to 9/-); Irrig. Area, 6/- to 8/- (few higher), (12/- to 14/- crate); Common, 3/- to 7/-; Lemons: Coastal, 2/- to 6/-; Irrig., 5/- to 7/-; Mandarins: 7/- to 14/-; small, from 2/-; Grapefruit: Coastal, 6/- to 12/- (few dearer); Inland, 8/- to 12/- (specials 14/-) case.

Passionfruit: Choice, 15/- to 21/- (small quantity dearer); other descriptions, 5/- to 14/- half-case.



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Tasmanian News and Notes

APPLES AND PEARS SETTING WELL — ADD NICOTINE TO CALYX SPRAY — CASE MATERIAL AND LABOUR SHORTAGE — DEPUTATION RE SHIPPING — STATE FRUIT BOARD CONSIDERS 1942 ACQUISITION.

(By Our Correspondent.)

The northern portions of the State have had serviceable rains, and the work of ploughing is now proceeding.

Both Apples and Pears blossomed freely, and the weather was favorable for setting. Although it is still too early to estimate the harvest prospects for the coming season, present indications point to a good crop if favorable conditions continue. There has been sufficient rain, and so far no severe frosts or hail. Most orchards are well cultivated for this time of the year.

The weather was fairly good for the pink spray and most orchards have been done thoroughly. In the southern districts, however, spraying was somewhat delayed owing to the cold windy weather, some orchardists still putting on the pink spray as late as October 18, with a fair percentage of bloom well out.

The calyx spraying should be well on the way to completion by early November, although the blossoming has been later than usual. Canary fly and red spider are both hatching, and it is important to check the first brood before it matures and lays eggs for the second brood. If neglected the canary fly does a lot of damage to the leaves and checks the growth of both fruit and wood. When spraying, nicotine should be added to the lead arsenate. Some growers still use lime sulphur and arsenate of lead mixture at calyx time, but the mixture seems to be losing favor as in many instances injury resulted to leaves and the fruit dropped more heavily than when the arsenate of lead alone was used.

Summer oil sprays have not become popular in Tasmania as there is a belief that they tend to clog the leaves too much and leave a residue on the fruit which is hard to remove.

The Huon orchards are a colorful sight at present with the Apple blossom and the bright green leaves of the Pear trees. All through these districts fruitgrowers are developing side-lines — new paddocks cleared and grassed or cropped. Cows and pigs are now in evidence where once was all fruit.

The small fruit areas are looking very well in most cases and it is expected that the whole crop will be needed.

The labor shortage at picking time will be a serious problem.

There is a little reworking of less wanted varieties going on as most growers find it all they can do to keep the seasonal work up to time.

On October 15 a deputation from the Huon Municipal Councils and the State Fruit Board, waited on the Minister for Agriculture to discuss ways and means of economising on petrol and labor, and it was pointed out that by utilising the Port Huon and Port Cygnet wharves for interstate shipments, considerable savings of both could be effected as there are cool stores near both wharves. Last season the bulk of the fruit in these stores was lorried up to Hobart at a cost of about 5d. per case.

The supplies of case material are still a major worry, and no concerted effort has yet been made to meet the imminent shortage. Millers are busy cutting long timber for export, which they consider more profitable. In years gone by there were numerous small mills throughout the country which concentrated on box material. With the establishment of the demand for imported pine cases and shandy-gaff cases, most of the small mills closed down. These mills would be invaluable now.

A special meeting of the State Fruit Board was held on October 21 to formulate plans in connection with the Apple and Pear acquisition should the scheme be continued in 1942. Subsequently members discussed the matter fully with the Minister for Agriculture (Hon. T. D'Alton) prior to his departure for a meeting of the Agricultural Council where the question is likely to be considered.

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The Hobart Show, which was held on October 15 and 16, was the feature of the month. The exhibits were up to the usual high standard and the attendance good.

Ranelagh: Mr. Thos. A. Frankcomb writes under date October 18, as follows:—

Re crop prospects in this district, the trees are now in full bloom and the prospects for a record crop would appear to be very bright as the bloom is as

good as I have ever seen, and weather conditions so far have been particularly favorable. However, at a later date, when it is possible to get a more accurate estimate of the position, I will write you again.

Owing to the labor shortage there is not as much re-working being done as is usually the case.

One notices several old orchards which have become uneconomic are being grubbed out.

SHIPMENTS FROM HUON.

Saving in Petrol and Manpower.

State Government Supports Proposals.

A DEPUTATION from the Huon Municipal Association and the State Fruit Board recently waited on the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. D'Alton) and the Minister for Transport (Mr. Brooker) with a view to effecting economies in petrol and manpower by the shipping of fruit direct from Huon ports.

It was pointed out to the Ministers that much of the fruit in the northern parts of the Huon was being transported by lorries to cool stores at Port Cygnet and Port Huon, and afterwards taken by lorry to Hobart for shipment, at an extra cost of between 4d. and 6d. a case. The result was that much more petrol was being used, more manpower was required in the handling of the fruit, and there was the wear and tear on the bitumen roads.

One shipment from the Huon to Hobart had taken 900 gallons of petrol to transport by lorries.

The Minister for Agriculture said there was no reason why ships should not go to the Huon to pick up the fruit. From the point of view of conserving petrol and manpower the deputation had a strong case.

Mr. D'Alton promised to interview the Minister for Commerce (Mr. Scully) when he visited the Mainland towards the end of the month. He stated that on several occasions the storage position on the Hobart wharves last season had become acute, and if ships were diverted to the Huon this would be avoided.

The Minister for Transport (Mr. Brooker) agreed that a strong case had been made out.

MILK AND SUBSTITUTES FOR PIGS.

Meat meal is a good substitute for separated milk in the pigs' diet, but unless it is used carefully, meat meal may prove an expensive food.

Meat meal, which is a by-product of abattoirs and meat works, is sold under several trade names and some varieties contain a small percentage of bone meal. The protein of flesh-forming constituents of these ranges from 46 to 63 per cent., a factor which influences the price and which should be considered when appraising values.

As meat meal is expensive in comparison with bulky pig foods grown on the farm, it should not be used more freely than is necessary. Separated milk, which source of protein meat meal replaces, is used according to its availability, pigs sometimes and unwisely receiving milk as their sole diet, but actually pigs will thrive on very small quantities of milk used in combination with grain and roots, Pumpkins, etc.

Each pig from the time of its weaning until market maturity and each dry sow should receive 3 quarts of separated milk daily, and each sow with a litter 6 quarts daily. When these minimum quantities of separated milk are not available, and it is not desired to prepare a milk ration from 1 lb. skim milk powder in 9 lb. water, meat meal having a protein content of between 50 and 60 per cent. may be used, say, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. meat meal to replace 3 quarts of separated milk.

HOME NOTES.

A tablespoonful of Orange juice added to Tomato soup is a great improvement.

A piece of camphor stored with silverware will keep it from tarnishing.

Never wash your comb in hot water, but leave it to soak in cold, salted water until the dirt softens, when it can be brushed out with an old toothbrush.

Plaster of Paris tied up in a muslin bag is an excellent wall cleaner, and a paste of whiting and water spread over actual stains and marks and brushed off when dry will often remove them from the most delicate wallpaper.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the **WHOLESALE FRUIT MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA**, the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)

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YOUNG FARMERS VICTORIA

Burke's Bridge, Horfield, McMillans and Mead.

The poultry field day at the farm of Mr. C. Farrant, at Cohuna attracted an attendance of well over 120. The gathering included practically every member of the Burke's Bridge, Horfield, McMillans and Mead Clubs, their parents, and members of the advisory councils.

The party was shown over the well-equipped and carefully laid-out poultry farm, on which there are upwards of 1,500 layers and hundreds of chickens in several stages of growth. Mr. W. Pederick, poultry expert of the Department of Agriculture, gave a most interesting talk on every phase of poultry raising.

Emerald.

Supervisor J. J. Keddie reports that these Young Farm-

ers are going in for the planting of potatoes and bunch vegetables in a big way. The club is receiving a full measure of local support. A workroom is being built and equipped with a stove and cookery utensils for girl members. Preparations are in hand for the annual field day.

South Drouin.

Plot work is engaging the attention of the club these days. Recently, Mr. F. Maher, B.Sc., addressed members on vegetable culture. The dairy project will be introduced in the new year when most members will own a selected calf. Three bags of potatoes were sold from the club plots this season.

Pakenham.

Members of the Army-road, Pakenham Club, are keenly in-

terested in fruit and vegetable projects. Members receive instruction in pruning, grafting, spraying, grading and packing of Apples. A feature of last season's work was the fine yield of Tomatoes from the club's plots. Mrs. J. J. Priest renders fine service as Secretary of the Advisory Committee.

Picola.

This recently-formed club is featuring pastures, wheat and vegetables in the school grounds and fat lamb raising and other stock at home. The President of the advisory council is Mr. J. H. McKenna, and the Secretary, Mr. W. Baxter.

A pasture field day was organised recently and an address was given by Mr. George B. Rayner, assistant agrostologist from the State Research Farm at Werribee. Others who spoke were Mr. H. F. Tuckett, M.L.C., an honorary Minister of the

Dunstan Government, and Mr. J. G. B. McDonald, M.L.A., the member for the district. Both these gentlemen commended the excellent work being done by the Young Farmer movement.

At Grahamvale, near Shepparton, Vic., where fruitgrowing is important, a project is being developed for growing Peach trees from seed—planting the Peach stones in May and June and budding to the required varieties about February.

Young Farmers' Club members at Boronia, Bayswater, Bayswater North, Clayton South, Dingley, Ringwood East and Emerald, will take part in Tomato culture projects this year.

Croydon North Young Farmers' Club is being reformed. With the formation of a strong Advisory Committee of local residents, the club will introduce intense culture and stock projects. Members are looking forward to increased activity.

Glenmore, Bayswater, Wantirna and Gormandale Young Farmers' Clubs, are introducing fruit-growing projects. Supplies of suitable trees have been obtained by these clubs for the purpose of demonstrating budding, grafting, pruning, etc.

The Romsey Young Farmers' Club was visited recently by Mr. J. Courtney, a supervisor of the movement. Steady progress is being made with Club activities. The area on which the potatoes were grown last year has been sown with a pasture seed mixture, and this is now to be used to graze the community sheep flock. Two stud Ryeland sheep have been given to the Club by Mr. McIntosh, of Merrigum. They are to be paid for by the sale of their progeny. A small flock of seven head is being introduced as a minor project in the club's activities. This club is also to grow onion bulbs to produce seed for Great Britain.

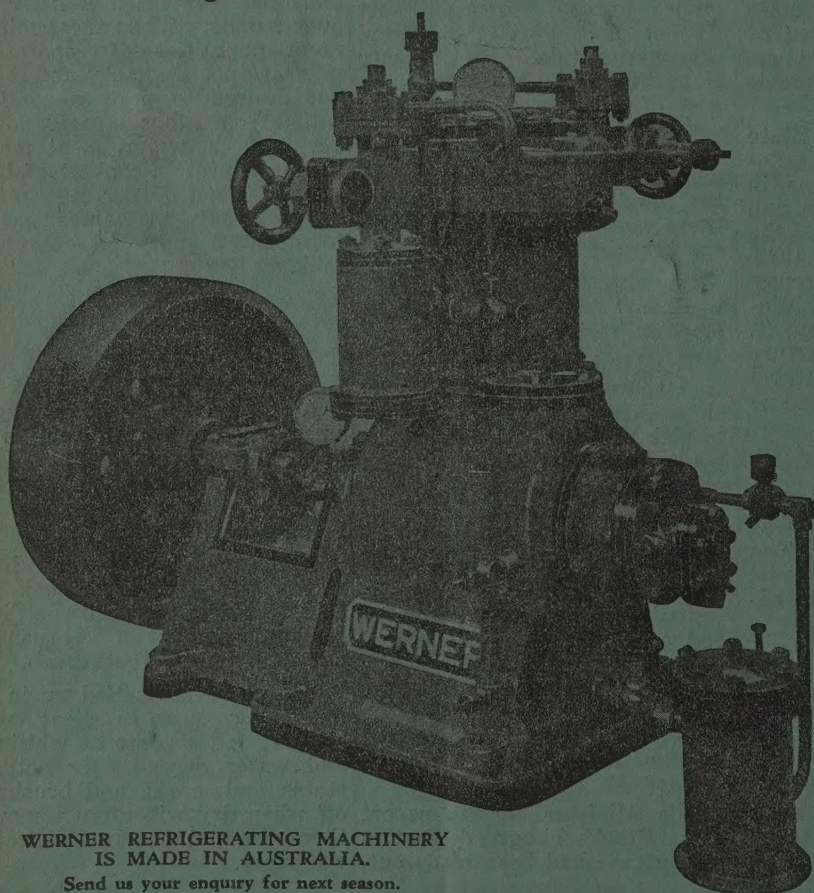
There is a revival of interest in the Warrandyte South Young Farmers' Club. A piece of land 90ft. x 50ft. has been securely fenced and ploughed with the object of establishing a small orchard. Fifteen fruit trees have been ordered, and Mr. Coleman, a local orchardist, has promised to supervise the planting. A portion of this ground will be planted with onion bulbs also, to produce seeds for Great Britain.

Extensive preparations have been completed by the members of Grade V. at the Echuca school who comprise the Young Farmers' Club under the direction of Mr. J. W. Barry for the extension of the vegetable plots.

The Annual General Conference of the Victorian Young Farmers' Clubs Association, will be held at 422 Collins-street, Melbourne, on Saturday, November 15, 1941, at 10 a.m.

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